



Monday Quotes

Grain

“The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.” George Orwell

Submitted by Judy Staszczuk, Eau Claire

Field

²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?" " ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" Mk. 5:29-34 and 39

Thoughts

A walk through the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles starts on the first floor with scenes from the beginning of the Nazi era depicted. You descend to lower levels as the tour continues spiraling downward through events that become increasingly unconscionable until you reach a full display of atrocities at the lowest level. At the beginning, two life size figures are sitting in a café with an audio system letting you in on their conversation about how no one would take the Nazis seriously. By the end, ordinary people participate in and silently witness unbelievable behavior, such as the throwing of Jewish babies out of windows. The people in the café on the first level never would have imagined what would happen by the end. Some German citizens would hold on to the truth and be despised, even punished, for living it; some would drift into the deception of an affectless society; and others perhaps never felt impacted by injustice. The first group, not made up of perfect individuals, but ones who were affected by the truth and showed it, gave you hope throughout the tour.

Where are we now in our own downward spiral built on historical prejudices and greed in our country? Or is the question, where are we now in breaking out of the spiral? Racist, anti-immigration rhetoric has escalated with bravado, but is also being countered by large numbers of people becoming aware of ineffective policies (during two administrations) and who proclaim, “We do care.” A Yale study shows a recent slight increase in climate change deniers, but local grass roots movements are doing new, ground-breaking work to protect the planet even if it means moving against the tides of federal and state governments. And we have Jesus, bursting through false boundaries that rather than protect, do harm. Jesus responded to desperate adults and children in a way that was personal and public, reminding us of the grace to be affected and to disrupt downward spirals. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy