



Grain

“God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who reveres God and does justice is acceptable.” Acts 20:34-35

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

“10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. 11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." 15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. John 6:10-15

Thoughts

But it's such a great office. A writer/activist wrote about being conflicted over whether or not to accept a new job, when after prayer and reflection he realized it was the snazzy, large office that was the big draw for him. The work itself would have moved him away from the path he felt called to at the time and so he turned down the offer. Good decision - not that we always make them.

In John's lesson, when Jesus realized that the people's response to his feeding them was to force him into becoming a king he head for the mountain. The hungry crowd Jesus fed must have included some people of means whose stomachs were growling in the moment as well as those more familiar with hunger pangs. The diverse group passed on the bread they received to one another in Jesus' presence. Jesus walked with the people where they were and offered to them in abundance without showing partiality, which was more than other leaders would do for them. The scenario offered a glimpse into the kingdom of heaven. Turning Jesus into the sort of leader the people wanted would have distracted him from his kingdom work and identity. He went off by himself perhaps to rest in God and face any lingering temptations he may have had.

How vital for us to embrace both prayer and action, especially since we don't always recognize distractions. It's easy to zigzag around decisions, experiencing long pauses between realizing our path whether it be in our work or beyond any profession. We need grace to see when we are moving off track as individuals and communities. May you have that grace in abundance. Happy Monday!

Prayer

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy