



Monday Quotes

Grain

“It is a blessed thing to know that no power on earth, no temptation, no human frailty can dissolve what God holds together.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Submitted by Peter Bakken, Madison

Field

26 “Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27 Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.’ 31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” 32 Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ 34 They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ 35 Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:26-27; 31-35

Thoughts

What were the people in John’s lesson hungry for? Jesus began with their experience. For those who lacked food, the answer was obvious, bread. However, there was another kind of bread, that fed one’s whole being. What does that mean for us? To begin, it helps to know what we hunger for. Pause and discern what is in your heart. Start where you are; that’s where Jesus comes to us. Be still. Breathe. Name what it is you hunger while sitting in your living room or taking a walk, or waiting to go up for communion while surrounded by beloved community. Be honest. It’s safe to take the question and any answers to Christ.

Some individuals and families who have felt ignored by all political parties for years, hunger to have enough of the basics. Many fear our democratic systems are being chipped away at and regulatory agencies dismantled. The image of children in cages lingers in our national consciousness as we cozy up to Russia, whose history of oppression is so thick there’s no reference point of a democracy to return to. We hunger for assurance that our freedoms will be protected. We have it much better than the first-century followers of Jesus who lived under an occupied rule, but some days you may feel on the verge of tears in your advocacy. God bless you as you hunger for justice.

What do you hunger for and how will you be fed? I’m nourished witnessing the rising number of people actively engaged in citizenship, as well as by many of the tips from experts on caring for ourselves physically and via relationships, art, and music as we lift our voices. In all of this, let’s not forget the bread from heaven that sustained God’s people in captivity, exile, and freedom. That bread is central to our journey and is here for us now. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly Recommended

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy