

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Repent is to turn away from complicity with the old age and its values and behaviors and to turn towards the coming realm.” Ronald J. Allen

### Field

“15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ... 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened..." Lk. 3:15-17 & 21

### Thoughts

Why were the people in Luke’s lesson getting baptized after the way John talked to them? They must have experienced that good kind of confrontation, the sort that clears your mind and makes room for what is real. However, not everyone who knew about John wanted to listen to him. In the verses left out of next week’s Gospel Herod wanted to lock him up. We say a lot about people who seem immovable in their destructive fixations. It’s okay to also think about the ones who hear, the choir.

We probably don’t imagine John’s listeners after hearing the Word for several years claiming, “Hey, you’re preaching to the choir.” That’s what we say when we’re already on board with a message and can also imply we don’t need to hear more. We likely are part of many small choirs, but none of them have perfect pitch. Everyone goes off key a little or a lot at times; some skip choir or disappear for long periods; and then there are those fakers moving their lips with no sound coming from them.

In the care for God’s creation choir, we might only wonder about gaining new members. How do we educate the ones impervious to accepting that climate change caused by humans is real and dire? Yet, I personally need improvement as a choir member going off key, and I know there are some just moving their lips. An Environmental Voter Project study reveals that some environmentalists lie about voting. Then there are people who worry about climate change but can’t agree enough with the candidate who is more supportive of the environment. If the latter is you, you have a lot of power to influence those legislators you voted for but aren’t good on environmental issues; some legislators are actually waiting for their supporters to help them to do the right thing. Preach to your choirs!

Leaving complicity with the old age to enter new horizons is not about a one-time grand permanent change that lifts you on to a nirvana-like cloud of perfection. We will always need the grace of nudges and help with clearing our minds for love and truth. That’s not a bad way to live. Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended.

### Share

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy