

Monday Quotes



Grain

“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(I have hope in the midst of injustice because) “I know the end of the story.” Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda quoting Rev. John Nelson

Field

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum." And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way. Luke 4:21-30

Thoughts by Hunger Advocacy Fellow Kelsey Johnson

Over the past few months I've been applying to seminary, feeling passionate about advocacy and called to ministry. A large part of the candidacy process has been talking with mentors and pastors about this sense of call and how it serves the church. These conversations have been affirming and also trying. One of my mentors serves a pretty conservative congregation in the Southern U.S. I reached out to talk with them about candidacy and was met with a blunt critique of the place of advocacy within the church. They said, "If social justice is your passion, don't work for the church." It's a provocative statement, and is a valid critique. However, we should be involved in social justice as followers of Christ. Social justice through a faith-lens is directly related to the ministry of Jesus: we know the ending of the story, and this divine grace informs bold advocacy ministry.

In next week's gospel, Jesus was removed from the synagogue for his preaching. He was driven out of town and brought to a cliff to be thrown off. "...But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way..." He kept ministering, often on the grounds of righteousness, despite public critique and even criticism from others within the religious institution because he knew the deeper sense of mission. This is the resurrection promise - we know the end of the story, and it informs the way we as a church are called to actively respond to equity - as Jesus did. This doesn't mean there won't be questioning, injustice and rejection. We are called to advocacy, informed by the promise of the resurrection. Just because we know the ending doesn't mean we get to sit back and wait for salvation. Jesus continued to live and minister boldly for social justice, and we ought to do the same. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Kelsey