

Monday Quotes



Grain

“(Being blessed) is being aware in the present of having a place in the movement toward the realm.”

Dr. Richard Allen, Working Preacher

Field

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. 19 And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. 20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man... 24 "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Lk 6:17-22 & 24-25

Thoughts

What a wonderful way Richard Allen understands the word blessed, to know in the present that we have a place in the movement toward the realm of God. Standing on that level place with Jesus was all about belonging to God and responding to blessedness with compassion and generosity. I am proud to be part of a church in which ELCA World Hunger is a strong program, where so many members work with faith-filled ecumenical and interfaith partners directly to alleviate hunger in their communities, and we have advocacy ministries to create systemic change. Blessed are we.

Movement is an interesting word to use. Movements can be so mixed, embracing important goals but that sometimes justify flawed means, and yet our imperfect movements for positive change are needed. Movements can also be geared toward destruction. The alt-right, a new term for the same old white supremacy, seduces people to belong mainly, but not exclusively, based on skin color. Feeling like a part of the group is not only about participants sharing certain similarities, but also their hatred of others not like them. The alt-right is extreme, and yet aspects of that extremity imbue many of our societal structures. How do we engage with the words from Luke in the midst of all this?

A couple of years ago, I heard of several ELCA pastors being accused of choosing the Beatitudes from Matthew 5 (with similar words as in Lk. 6) on the Sunday that it was an assigned reading, in order to criticize the president. We better watch it. Woe to us if when we are offended by core Christian teachings about love we do not recognize that as a wake-up call.

Return with Jesus to the level place, which is not free of struggle, but where God offers forgiveness, compassion, and our place in the movement toward the realm. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy