

Monday Quotes



Grain

“True humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less.” C.S. Lewis

Submitted by Reverend Mark Teslik, Portage, WI

Field

“27 ‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you. 32 If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven;” Luke 6:27-37

Thoughts

How do you experience Jesus’ words of love and forgiveness while navigating so much mean-spiritedness in the world? Resentment can turn into seemingly endless cycles within families and communities. Lawmakers may be condemned for barely communicating their opinions if they deviate from mainstream ideology. We witness misinformation and bias blurring the lines of judgment. Now, we are in a national state of emergency, not focused on the humanitarian crisis of separated families, but on funding a wall. Real human problems are being buried in rhetoric and superficial interests. The message in Luke seems urgent. The world needs your love.

Jesus spoke to the aggressiveness in his culture and also to an exclusive quid pro quo approach to life. There is nothing wrong with having mindful self-interest and benefiting mutually from one another. We can easily misunderstand being Christian as an exercise in thinking little of ourselves, as C.S. Lewis pointed out, and of equating all self-concerns with selfishness. When Jesus turned people’s worlds upside down, it wasn’t by demanding that his followers simply be nicer, but by revealing that we are connected in a deeper way beyond a quid pro quo level of existence. Science has also expanded upon the concept of interconnectedness. Medical studies have demonstrated a relationship between forgiveness and wellness. The ancient wisdom was already there. Jesus’ pointing us to the realm of God and building our capacity for compassion is present.

Stay attuned to the ancient wisdom of Jesus. Grace will help you. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy