

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Do not make a religion out of your better moments.”
Jacob Needleman’s quote of an Eastern Orthodox monk

Field

“28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah..." 37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child..." " Luke 9:28-33; 37-38

Thoughts

In my first parish, I met several couples who had moved to the north woods, “God’s country,” to retire. Often times, one of the spouses would complain about wanting to move back closer to their family. Regardless of how much either of them wanted to remain, they could agree that living in the small community was different than popping into their dream cabin on vacation. It made me recall my own experience of moving into a retreat center, where I could be reenergized after short visits. It was different and good, though not in the way I expected, staying there for one year. Living in community you are like mirrors to one another and deal with the murkiness of everyone’s flaws. But within those struggles, our brokenness, repentance and forgiveness Christ’s healing power is manifested.

When the disciples wanted to build dwellings for Jesus and the two Exodus figures, Moses and Elijah, it was about trying to preserve their beautiful recognition of Jesus’ identity so clearly. Who wouldn’t want to hold on to that? Let’s build some booths or a rustic cottage to house experiences of freedom in God. Actually, Jesus could have said, “Sure you can stay, but I’m going back down. Good luck. It gets cold at night. Oh, and the locals may wonder why you’re still hanging around up here.” The mountain would be there but the experience would level off.

Barriers to freedom include trying to make a religion out of our better moments and feeling despair over not having a continual stream of mountain top experiences, not recognizing that Christ is in the immediate world around us, and perhaps another is forgetting our times of clarity and healing. Remember those times; they help us to pray and to love in public. The Exodus figures in the story add to the theme of freedom; they just don’t want to be confined to a lake cabin. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy