

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“As the country rapidly diversifies, our history reveals two different paths Americans have taken in reaction to demographic change – one filled with hate, and one filled with hope.” Heidi Beirich

### Field

1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, "One does not live by bread alone.' " 5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' " 9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple... Luke 4:1-9

### Thoughts

It's that time of year when some people are deciding what to give up for Lent and others will warn that this season isn't about sacrificing candy and other favorite snacks. I think that partial or complete fasting from certain foods or from noise can be like a spring cleaning, or as Matthew Fox calls it, a housecleaning, of our senses. Some say this attunes them more to prayer. There's nothing wrong with giving things up for Lent, even while simultaneously trying to do something for your health, as long as we don't confuse the temptation to eat sweets with the tests Jesus faced in the desert. Whether or not you do any sensory spring cleaning, this is a season for questions and searching.

A couple of Lenten questions: What were Jesus' temptations about? Where did he find security in an insecure wilderness? The desert tests probably weren't about dire consequences Jesus would have faced if he had temporarily slipped up, but more about how he would grasp the type of Messiah he was called to be. He would carry his answer into society, and it would tap into people's own insecurities about who they were and where they found solace. He'd reach out to people who embraced a whole plethora of identities. Conflicts would ensue and intensify.

Struggling with how to embrace multiple cultural identities in society can be a worthy effort in order to do diversity well, as it has been done in many places in the U.S. We also have a history of people attempting to find security in separating themselves from others unlike them. Some have even equated maintaining a majority status and oppressive power with being Christian. But what kind of Messiah was Jesus? Where do I find security? What types of rhetoric seduces me away from how I am called to be with my identity as a child of God? May our Lenten journeys grace us with questions that unearth barriers to our freedom in God in private and in public. Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Highly recommended.

### Share

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy