

Monday Quotes



Grain

“We are forgiven as soon as we grasp the fact that we need forgiveness.” - Mary Anna Vidakovich

Submitted by Peter Bakken, Madison

Field

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." Luke 13:31-35

Thoughts

“I must be on my way” and not get stuck in Herod’s madness, though many would. Jesus grieved religious leaders colluding with the king and other corrupt political authorities. His lament was intimate but also very public. Like a mother hen, Jesus wanted to gather all of Jerusalem under his wing, just as God tries to draw us back in when we are complicit with the wrong powers.

At the same time that we are in need of God’s forgiveness and mothering, we are graced with the capacity to lament what is disturbing in our world. In scripture, laments gave people space to ask difficult questions often with their feelings of anger, confusion, and pain well intact. Lamenting infused prophetic voices and helped God’s followers to name harsh realities so that transgressions would not be ignored. Lament is a part of our advocacy.

Recently in the media, there have been some positive results that we can imagine have erupted out of the anger, confusion, and grief over what is happening to our planet. Citizens of Toledo, Ohio, just granted legal rights reserved for people to Lake Erie. The toxicity humans caused to the lake led to the city’s state of emergency in 2014. Also in the news, we find some churches encouraging parishioners to give up plastic for Lent. What kind of lament is behind public cries that interrupt injustice against God’s creation?

I need forgiveness for my collusion with all that is not loving and that distorts the truth. I know I’ll need God’s mercy again, and I must be on my way.

As you are on your way, what do you lament on a personal level and in public? Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy