

Monday Quotes



Grain

“I live in that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in the years of maturity.” —Albert Einstein

Submitted by **K. Fred Rist, Alma, Wisconsin**

Field

11 "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything... 21 Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son."... 23 "...let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"...25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing...28 Then he became angry... Luke 15:11b-16; 21-28a

Thoughts

When preparing to co-lead an intergenerational forum on poverty at a church in Marinette a few years ago, the pastor asked if we could address the problem of opioids, which had dramatically affected the lives of people he knew. I invited Representative John Nygren, whose daughter struggled with addiction, to join us. Family members on unhealthy paths don't always turn around. Sometimes they do. But either way, do you exclusively place your faith in how another will change?

The family members in Luke's lesson must have wondered about where to find hope when they didn't get what they expected in life. The father had to grieve the possibility that his younger son would never return. Einstein's quote in today's **Grain** about solitude may best suit the father. He wasn't literally alone but seemed to have the sort of solitude we can sometimes embrace in the cave of our hearts, where we are undistracted. The father was gifted to be unfettered by any noise about how others may have wanted him to judge his youngest son. At the same time, I wonder about the father's imperfection and struggles - the times when his whole world was distracted by wanting his son to change, and about his vulnerability to being duped or overly stern. Whatever the details of his own journey, he knew God's grace.

May we be graced with an internal place of hope even when loss seems to mark our days, and when we realize our own need for forgiveness or are taken off guard by self-harming loved ones altering, or when systems we have advocated to change for so long actually do. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy