

Monday Quotes



Grain

“When difficult things are commanded, endure and do not grow weary.” - Rule of St. Benedict

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, Minnesota

Field

23:1 Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. 2 They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." 3 Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." 5 But they were insistent... 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; 21 but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!"... 33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34 [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."]. 42 Then he the criminal) said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."... Luke 23:1-5; 33-34; 42-43

Thoughts

True or false? Jesus claimed to be the Messiah. True! Jesus forbade anyone to pay taxes to the emperor. False! That was a lie. If only Pilate would have been more detailed, and rather than simply pointing out that he found no fault in Jesus would have publicly examined and exposed the falsehoods he heard. But the problem in this story was that truth didn't matter to most of the authorities or the crowd that morphed into a mob. It was a time of obscurity. An institution arrested an innocent man. Many who had witnessed Jesus heal and love with great generosity lost confidence in him as they got swept up in a frenzy. What would be the long-term outcome for Jesus' followers who fled or remained in shock as the crowd chanted "Crucify him," an ancient version of "Lock him up," regardless of the truth about the details or about God? If we didn't know the rest of the story, we might guess that Jesus' followers would have gotten stuck in a loop of cynicism.

In their book, *Mobbing*, Maureen Duffy and Len Sperry describe mobbing as bullying by more than one person and having institutional buy-in. Whether the abuse happens in a workplace, school, church, condo association, government, etc., the person targeted can be left with a changed world view, envisioning life through a filter of mistrust and disbelief in new possibilities. In a journey away from being stuck in a state of cynicism, for any reason, the passion story offers great hope. The time of obscurity was and always is just that, a period with a time limit. More striking was how Jesus wasn't defined by the crowd's refusal to acknowledge the truth. He didn't accept their reaction and the cross as things he deserved, but continued to fathom to whom he belonged while emitting compassion beyond what I can imagine within anyone else's capacity. How is the full reading of Luke 22:14-23:56 for Palm Sunday part of your story? May it open our hearts and world view. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy