



Grain

"Justice is what love looks like in public." Cornell West

Field

"25 I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe." John 14:25-29

Thoughts

"Everyone hates lawyers until they need one," an attorney friend snapped after hearing someone make a lawyer joke. When you require guidance navigating a legal system that can seem like its own hellish maze, a good legal advocate walks you through it while contending that you're worthy of being treated justly and with compassion.

It has always intrigued me that "advocate" is used for the Holy Spirit in this text. What images come to mind for you? Court rooms? People trying to impact systemic change via public policies? Those speaking up individually for seniors? A teacher in your corner? "*Paracletos*," the Greek word translated as advocate or helper, signifies being "called along beside." Jesus said he would not leave his followers alone. God would send the Holy Spirit to move beside us, insisting upon our worth as children of God.

In our own advocacy, we try to sort through a quagmire of partisan politics to love our neighbor in public. We lift our voices against the aspects of our immigration system that are dehumanizing and decisions that unnecessarily leave individuals without healthcare, to name a couple of challenges. It can be overwhelming to continually butt up against systems that can seem immovable. However, no structure is forever static. We also recall that we are not alone, but have a greater advocate in the Holy Spirit moving beside us. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy