



Grain

“Ask me for a blessing. God’s love is meant to be shared.” Reverend Adrian Dannhauser

Field

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. 2 He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. 3 Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. 4 Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road...7 Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid..." 17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" 18 He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. 19 See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:1-7, 17-20

Thoughts

The Japanese master of decluttering people’s homes, Marie Kondo, showed up in social media blasts when her book inspired a television series. She helps people confirm what they want to keep by asking them to hold their various possessions in their hands and ask if each one sparks joy. If not, time to thank it and let go. But what has been the big draw to her work? Maybe many of us imagine decluttering, or it’s because Kondo is always so enthusiastic and sometimes even hops; I never hop. But I think there is an appeal in the way she builds a relationship with the people who welcome her into their homes as well as with their space. The process of giving up of some possessions becomes emotional for the individuals who welcome her in. They would like to let go of objects but also seem to discover some of their own internal clutter they want to release. She taps into needs perhaps some people don’t even know they have.

What else do people want consciously or unconsciously? Recently, I read an article about an Episcopal priest, Rev. Adrian Dannhauser, who stands outside her church offering blessings near a sign with the words in today’s Grain. Strangers actually stop, interrupting their schedule to remember they are loved by God. Jesus on a deep level knew about our need for spiritual decluttering and being in relationship with God and our neighbor. He sent his disciples out to enter into new spaces, receive hospitality, and to be instruments of God’s love within varying contexts. It worked. The disciples in their training returned thrilled about their experiences. Jesus warned them not to linger in the excitement over what happened through them, but to rejoice in their relationship with God. The people they encountered were not just a means to an end. Even in advocacy work, we very much want results, but it is also about forming community as a church longing for justice. The hunger is there in a harvest that is plentiful. We are part of the harvest and needed laborers. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy