



Grain

“And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” Luke 13:16

Field

Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—

Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

—Martin Niemoller **Submitted by Cindy L. Bishoff, Green Bay**

Thoughts

Have you ever been unemployed? I was for a while several years ago. Even though after searching for jobs, networking, and regularly updating my resume, I still had more free time on most days than I did while employed. Yet it was challenging to rest, to create space for a day to not be anxious about what I wasn't doing. Resting in our God of liberation sometimes is a discipline. For people working more than one low-income job seven days per week, an entire Sabbath day is impossible. So how do we respond to observing the Sabbath as being a mark of following God in Biblical times? Jesus connected the Sabbath to liberation of a disenfranchised woman he named as a daughter of Abraham in Luke 13. In certain places in scripture, the Sabbath was about justice, rest for all beings. Maybe today, the question isn't only about whether we are practicing the Sabbath and how, but who gets to rest?

In light of the ELCA just having become a sanctuary denomination, when is the Sabbath for people escaping violence and poverty. Looking at history, we know mistakes made as well as courage lived out by people of faith such as Martin Niemoller, a German Lutheran pastor who resisted atrocities carried out by his government. We try to live into the words of his poem to address escalating rhetoric that not only stifles healthy conversations which embrace differences in opinions about immigration, but that scapegoat people into displacement and antagonize those searching for a home. Bishop Gerald Mansholt of the East Central Synod, said in relationship to the ELCA becoming sanctuary, “I believe it was Dietrich Bonhoeffer who said it is the call of every Christian to seek to know and to do the will of God. These are days for discernment, for seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in these present times.”

As we discern how we are called to be part of a sanctuary church, consider the question of who gets to rest, and how Jesus named the woman on the fringes of society a daughter of Abraham. Being sanctuary in whatever action we may take is a way to create Sabbath space for others. Happy Monday!

Note: Find ELCA Talking Points on being a sanctuary church, an ELCA World Hunger on sanctuary and our new resource at www.loppw.org - Resources, Reflections & Tools – Immigration & Refugees.

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All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane