



Grain

"It is a blessed thing to know that no power earth, no temptation, no human frailty can dissolve what God holds together." –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Submitted by Peter Bakken, Madison

Field

...5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9 and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Matthew 4:5-11

Thoughts

James Moll in his documentary, *Inheritance*, separately introduces Monika Hertwig and Helen Jonas, each of whom was profoundly impacted by a dangerous world view. Hertwig tells the story of watching Schindler's list and leaving the theater scandalized by the way her Nazi father, Amon Goeth, was portrayed. She didn't remember him that way and researched to prove the movie was wrong. It wasn't. Hertwig was just a little girl when her father was the commander of a Polish concentration camp. Jonas, a Jewish girl from the camp, relays the life of abuse Goeth subjected her to when he forced her to be his maid. The film builds up to Hertwig and Jonas meeting for the first time. The encounter is dramatic, but more striking is what each of them inherited from Goeth and others like him who institutionalized extremism for a period of time. In other writings and films, Hertwig and so many children of the guilty seem almost inconsolable about the legacy they received.

Germany has set examples of learning from the mistakes of many, but not all, of their leaders and citizens. What have we all learned? Several recent articles in the United States display titles like the one from a recent Newsweek: "Right-Wing Extremists Are a Bigger Threat to America Than ISIS." A call to be vigilant about our world views.

As we enter Lent, we always read about Jesus' temptation just before he began his ministry. The story wasn't simply about Jesus not giving in to his individualistic temptations in the moment, but what kind of Messiah he would be. At stake was Jesus' world view and how he would handle power. The way we interact with the story isn't about figuring out how to be as perfect as Jesus was, but how we express Christ's character. What is at stake in our current world? Let's begin not only with the goodness and problems we have inherited from our own families and country, but with the legacy Jesus left us. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane