



Grain

“Imagine a world where the representatives of the greatest military power on earth are humbled by an unarmed healer from the backwaters of Galilee. If you can imagine this kind of world, you possess...an imagination ready to discern the reign of heaven.” –Stanley Saunders

Submitted by Peter Bakken, Madison

Field

31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." 33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." 44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field..." Matthew 13:31-33, 44

Thoughts

I turned on a television program called, “The Elegant Universe.” A physicist was explaining the Theory of Everything, bringing together quantum physics and Einstein’s theory of relativity. But at the same time, I really wanted to tune into another show that featured an Episcopal bishop talking about resurrection, so I flipped between the two channels. The scientist explained that the universe likely had more than one dimension. Interestingly, the bishop also kept bringing up the word, “dimension.” Christ opened a new dimension for us. Both claimed there is more than what we recognize before us – other realms, a new scenery.

Recently, our lives have been altered by a phenomenon very much outside the radar of our senses but that has had immense impacts - the pandemic. Holly Hearon, Professor Emerita of New Testament Christian Theological Seminary says, “The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how something so small that it is invisible to the eye can grow rapidly and exponentially into a destructive force that consumes all our attention and resources, as individuals, communities, nations, and as a world.”

The reign of heaven is not immediately in our view either and grows in ways we don’t always imagine. But the reign of heaven flourishes countering destruction and temptations to despair. Its scenery of love is disarming and offers hope like a treasure where we might not expect to find it.

What have been some ways you have witnessed love and forgiveness flourish beginning with what seemed like minor acts of kindness or compassion? When have you experienced a small change expand into a new scenery of hope? And also think of the times God has used you to sow seeds as small as mustard seeds that have grown in ways you may not have even realized.

Christ opens a dimension that is of great value. Let us remember that by grace we are in alignment with this new scenery even when it is not immediately apparent. Happy Monday!

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

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

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy