

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“The one with five talents sometimes made mistakes but once in a while would jump into the water to save a drowning child.”

–Shigeto Oshida

### Field

20 Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave!... 29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

Matthew 25:14-26 & 29

### Thoughts

I had a Quaker friend who was a judge in Minnesota. She felt so strongly about income inequality and the damage it has done to our nation that she claimed to simply disagree with the Gospel story about the talents from Matthew. She said that the rich get richer according to that text “That’s not right.” It wasn’t the first time I heard my spiritual friend choose her conscience over what she construed in the Bible. Her refusal to accept what she interpreted as oppressive was intriguing to a Lutheran fastened to scripture. Her response seemed better than to abide by what she read as a harmful teaching; the church has a history of the latter. But I’ve been compelled to discern what doesn’t immediately make sense in the Bible. Sometimes the harder texts are where you find a key.

In our conversation, I recalled a sermon in which the preacher said, the servant with one talent in the story was very cautious and rarely made mistakes. The one with five talents sometimes made mistakes “but once in a while would jump into the water to save a drowning child.” That poetic interpretation wasn’t about the rich getting richer, but about how we respond to God’s callings within our contexts.

We are coming to the end of an election season that has exhausted our country. Rest and nourish yourselves spiritually and emotionally. Be connected to your core values. Opportunities to raise your needed voices and act out of love within your own circles and more publicly will arise as we continue on the journey. May you be graced to be alert and respond to those opportunities. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy