

Monday Quotes



Grain

“It is useless to dream of reforming society without a corresponding change in our own lives.” –Bishop Hélder Câmara
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed... ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,^[a] you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food... **Matthew 25:34 & 35-42**

Thoughts

It’s been great, Matthew, but we won’t be hearing from you via the Revised Common Lectionary after November 22 for a while. We hope you don’t mind that we’re using your above text to help us end our church calendar; we’ve named it Reign of Christ (Christ the King) Sunday. Just what kind of leader have you shown us in Jesus?

Connections seemed to be important to you. Not that you were a name dropper, but at the beginning of your Gospel, you introduced Jesus as part of a long lineage of God’s people rooted in a particular history. Jesus was a Messiah who would share God’s love with his family and way beyond. You refer to Jesus with the Hebrew name, Emmanuel – God with us. In your own life, were you alone and sometimes on the outside? Was the mystery of “God with us” a promise you fathomed? In your Gospel, Jesus talks about many of God’s promises to be fulfilled.

You noticed dreams. Through your lens, we view Joseph as a wonderful man transparent in his dreams, in juxtaposition with the power-hungry King Herod, who only understood a shadow of reality. Pilot’s wife also had a warning dream, but her husband wouldn’t listen, just as we sometimes do not.

Jesus healed, but for you he was also a great teacher. What he taught in the beatitudes seemed to be the backdrop of so much of what you helped us to recognize in Christ. Blessed are those... revealed the unexpected in how Jesus engaged in people’s empty spaces. Similar reversals continued in parables, culminating in God’s love from the cross and in the resurrection.

We end this year in your 25th chapter, on a harsh note of judgment, the kind that clears our minds and wakes us up. Notice the stranger, feed the hungry. You don’t leave us guessing about the sort of leader Jesus was. Your answers inform how we live privately and lift our voices publicly. How can we be silent? Thank you, Matthew. See you in a couple of years. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy