

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Not only will we have to repent for the sins of bad people; but we also will have to repent for the appalling silence of good people.”

—The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Field

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>[a]</sup> of God,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>[c]</sup> repent, and believe in the good news. <sup>16</sup> As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mk. 1:14-20

### Thoughts

What have been your *Kairos* moments? *Kairos* is Greek for “time” and signifies an opportune moment, a crisis but also opportunity; it is a key juncture that invites a response, a conversion in how we perceive. Jesus called the disciples to suddenly alter their lives beginning with repentance. Repenting is about changing our way of thinking, which is what Jesus asked Simon, Andrew, and James to do when he said to them, “Follow me.” It was a *kairos* moment.

Dr. King seemed to fathom the meaning of *kairos*. As written in *Race and Repentance: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*, “Part of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s many-faceted genius was his recognition that *chronos*, mere clock time — the passage of days, weeks, and years, no matter how long or short, no matter how trivial or important — is no match for *kairos*, that opportune moment of God's visitation. He knew that since racial reconciliation is part of the Gospel, the Gospel necessarily has political ramifications. His life and ministry, and the larger role of the black church, are instructive.”

We also know stories of missed opportunities. What if Thomas Jefferson not only lamented the injustice of slavery, but also tried to change the system and released all the people he enslaved. But more wasn't done then and at other would-be junctures. And now, we are in a crisis, in which covert and overt racism exploded in mass violence with threats of assassinations at our U.S. Capitol. Could this be a *kairos* moment? Maybe, if we fathom the call to repentance of what we've ignored about racial inequality, and do not use statements such as, “This is not who we are” as distractions from the hard work of being accountable for a real and historical part of American identity. ELCA Advocacy Director Rev. Amy Reumann expands upon the latter in her excellent blog.

Opposing views in our country are crashing against each other. But as people of faith, we also pay attention to the dissonance between the Kingdom of God and this world? What is it in our hearts that clash with God's reign? What is it that resonates? What will be your *Kairos* moments? Stay alert. And may the grace of God be with us all. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy