



Grain

“Well, I don’t know what will happen now. We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop...”

–**The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Field

² Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³ and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one^[a] on earth could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,^[b] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Mark 9:2-5

Thoughts

The disciples were left in wonder by what they encountered on the mountain. However, they weren’t quite ready to say, “We’ve got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn’t matter with me now. Because I’ve been to the mountaintop.” Instead, they scrambled to figure out how to hold on to and extend their present moment. Perhaps they could remain on the summit and build a few dwelling places. But eventually, the disciples had to discover that any spectacular or subtle glimpses into God’s reign were to be remembered and inform our present on the plains and in the valleys.

An important part of spirituality is remembering. We remember scriptural stories about justice, freedom from slavery, and about encounters with Jesus and the apostles. We’re invited to remember the transfiguration as though we were there. And then we have stories of how God has entered our lives through daily experiences, other people, and in journeys seeking justice. Andy Otto, of “God in All Things,” says Ignatian spirituality points to how returning to memories can be sacred. Recalling how God has worked in our lives may “bear fruit in the present.”

In the midst of immense challenges, threats, and oppression, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. remembered his experiences of a broader horizon Christ opened to us and of what was possible in history. He knew there were difficult days ahead of him but he had been to the mountaintop, which engaged him in the present.

Finally, I like to recall that the Hebrew word for remember, *zakar*, means to relive. Relive God working before us in history and within our lives. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy