

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Even the smallest person can change the course of the future.” –Gandalf to Frodo in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Fellowship of the Ring*

### Field

Then Jesus said, “This is what God’s Blessed Community is like. It’s as though someone scatters seed on the ground, then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn’t know how. The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it’s harvest time.” He continued, “What’s another good image for God’s Blessed Community? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.” With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. He spoke to them only in parables, and then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them. Mk 4:26-34

### Thoughts by Deacon David Rask Behling, Hunger and Justice Advocate, NW Synod

Stories are at the heart of our faith, but not just ordinary ones. The ones I’m referring to are all sacred stories: about creation, about betrayal and destruction, about covenants with Abraham and Sarah, about liberation from slavery with Moses and Miriam, and about when God became human, died, and rose again.

The stories from today’s text are parables, a special kind of sacred story used by Jesus to help those who were listening to understand the relationship between humanity and God. While these parables use images and knowledge of the natural world, they are not about specific fields of barley, weeds, or mustard plants. What Jesus is trying to do is teach us how to “see” the new reality called the Blessed Community [or the Realm of God] that is breaking into the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The new reality isn’t going to be obvious, Jesus tells us through parables like these. It will be tiny at first, something easily overlooked and almost invisible. It may be hard to distinguish or separate it from the natural world or the human-created world. This new reality may be seen as an intended crop destined for harvest or an unwanted weed; however, it will become part of our world no matter how tiny it is at the beginning or how much we might resist.

Do you see the seeds of the new reality called the Blessed Community in your life? Are you looking for them? Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Deacon David