

Monday Quotes



Grain

“We know God in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.” –Dorothy Day

Field

²⁴So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” ³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:24-30 & 35

Thoughts

After Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000 he left with his disciples. When the people found him on the other side of the sea they asked, So, Jesus, what time did you get here? Perhaps a clue that they weren't going to pose the most discerning questions to the Son of God. But Jesus would help them to broaden their vision and to be curious about God's enduring love.

Some people debate whether the stories related to bread in St. John's Gospel are more about addressing physical needs or building our relationship with God. Feeding the 5,000, of course, was about alleviating the crowd's hunger. But it's followed by a lesson about Jesus challenging the people to search for more than bread to consume. The debate is also about contemplation versus action. Some have interpreted the story about Mary and Martha in St. Luke's Gospel to mean that contemplation is superior to action. And yet, the lesson is in close proximity to the story about the Good Samaritan, which is all about taking acting to love one's neighbor. What all of the stories hold in common is their expanding our imagination for what is possible with God in each moment.

In what ways are we called to notice what is possible in our relationship with God, our neighbor, and our communities? That is a recurring question we may ask when taking communion or experiencing it online. We may also ask the question when new ideas for addressing hunger arise. Many of us are excited about the child tax credit, which could cut poverty by 30-50% in 2021 and longer if we can expand the credit beyond this year. We are also hopeful that a federal bill to expand Medicaid in the handful of states that have refused to take the funding may have a chance. However long it may take to develop policies, what do we imagine for diminishing poverty and expanding health care? May the bread of life deepen our sense of belonging to God and broaden our vision for sharing God's love and physical bounty. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy