

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Being free is living in reality.” –Shigeto Oshida

### Field

<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews (the religious authorities) then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. John 6:51-53

### Thoughts

John’s Gospel was written to people who were influenced by abstract notions about God’s love separated from daily life. They, as people in our history and contemporary culture, could be offended by Jesus’ concreteness about God’s presence.

Recently, I watched a fictitious program set in the 1940’s that portrayed an aspect of U.S. history I wished were true. Part of the story, though not the main focus, included a black male character who proposed to a white woman. When she took him home to meet her parents they immediately liked him. As a matter of fact, none of the white characters were provoked by the inter-racial relationship; it was simply part of the story as though it took place in 2021. You could view that as refreshing, also keeping in mind how opening roles for actors regardless of their ethnicity or skin color is fair. But what if a viewer did not have at least a moderate understanding of history, and believed the program accurately reflected the 1940’s? That wouldn’t help us to discern some of the lingering problems that have emerged from our real history, in which inter-racial marriage wasn’t completely legalized before 1967. Until recently, a movie or book including boundary-crossing between black and white people would have taken center stage, as breaking the illusions of human constructs often does. Accepting a sanitized version of the past wouldn’t assist us in uncovering lines drawn to limit where people belong.

Maybe I sound like a Debbie Downer when talking about a fun show to relax to, but the issue of what to teach about race has been an issue in many public schools. The Wisconsin Legislature is even discussing a bill that, if passed into law, has the potential to intimidate teachers for teaching history comprehensively and holding open discussions about race.

I wish the truth about God’s love revealed in our concrete relationships would have been less offensive to more people in past generations, and that historically accepted abuses didn’t influence our present. But this is our broken world. Jesus didn’t ignore brokenness in relationships. John’s Gospel, which can seem other worldly, is very concrete in revealing the larger realm of the holy, the bread from heaven, in the present. May we continue to be nourished by that bread. Happy Monday!

### Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cindyc@loppw.org](mailto:cindyc@loppw.org)

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)

May God bless you this week,

Pastor Cindy