

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Time is short. Eternity is long. It is the time of decision.”

“Discipleship never consists in this or that specific action; it is always a decision, either for or against Jesus Christ.”

Both quotes are from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Field

⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²... many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶³So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁴Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:56-61 and 66-68

Thoughts

When have you had watershed periods of time or unexpected moments? In the Gospel lesson, Jesus’ followers were discerning whether they would continue trusting a God so intimately involved in their lives. Many grumbled. Some had already left before learning more. Peter realized following Jesus was difficult, but what else was there outside the type of love that had embraced him? Later, Peter would deny Jesus at another critical juncture, but then return. Judas would just leave.

In the novel, “The Seed and the Sower” by Laurens van der Post, the older brother faces a critical time to make a decision. He was talented academically, good looking, and admired as a leader in his South African preparatory school. His younger brother was not gifted in the same way, and had the physical burden of an obvious hump on his back. But the younger one also had a beautiful singing voice and was kind and loving. They had a real family bond. Eventually the younger brother joined the elder at the same boarding school. One day, a cruel mob of students began mocking him and tore off his shirt to reveal his hunch back. The older brother heard what was happening from a nearby chemistry lab. He could have helped him, but instead remained in the lab. A professor saw the tail end of the ordeal and recognized what the older brother had failed to do. The boy also realized his older brother’s inaction. The younger one never mentioned the incident to his older brother, but he stopped singing.

At graduation the entire school applauded the older brother – everyone but that one professor – he was like a conscience to him. Later in the novel, the older brother was stationed in Palestine during WWII. One night, lying outside and looking at the stars, he realized he would never have peace until he asked his brother for forgiveness. He made the difficult trip home to confess his betrayal. The brothers cried together, embraced, and found healing. As the elder brother was falling asleep, he heard the beautiful voice of his younger brother singing once again.

Where are the junctures in our private lives and as a public church that have led us to confessing, Lord, to whom shall we go? You teach us about quality, long-lasting love worth claiming. Happy Monday?

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy