

Monday Quotes



Grain

"Hope is often misunderstood. People tend to think that it is simply passive thinking: I hope something will happen but I'm not going to do anything about it. This is indeed the opposite of hope, which requires action and engagement."
—Jane Goodall

Field

13As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"² Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"⁴ Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray."⁵ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.⁶ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs. Mark 13:1-8

Thoughts

Have you ever dreamed about buildings collapsing? I remember one such dream during a tumultuous time in my 20's. Challenges seemed overwhelming but the world did not end.

I wonder what the disciples dreamed about after their visit to the temple or when harsh realities about Jesus' path became more apparent. Their setting was vastly different than ours, but the destruction of the temple was to be a recurring event taking different forms in each generation and culture. Our call to bear witness to God's word and to face hostile threats with hope remain constant.

By the time this email is sent I'll be at COP26, preparing to hear stories from people in countries where they are experiencing the dangerous results of climate change right now. Right now, people's health and homes are overtly impacted by the effects of greenhouse gasses. I expect to be overwhelmed with information about the emergency state our planet is in, while recalling there are many elected officials and voters who claim not to believe in climate change, as though it were something to believe or disbelieve in. Public policy is on the forefront of what needs to change. Decisions based on short-term benefits that fit within election cycle demands for fossil fuel subsidies, for example, cannot continue. Temples can be restructured and rebuilt, but what about our planet?

I find great hope in 1,000s of people, including a strong faith contingent, from around the world gathering to name reality as it is and to strategize ways to protect the earth. Let the conference energize those of us who are Christian, whether we can attend or not, to reclaim God's call to care for creation. How is God working? What birth pangs do you feel in your voting and advocacy? Have hope. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy