



Grain

“You have to undergo the terrible process of becoming more resilient.” –Rainer Maria Rilke

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Field

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” ⁵Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” ⁶When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” ⁹For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; ¹⁰and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” ¹¹When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:4-11

Thoughts

We’ve been casting our nets all night, repeating the same motions over and over, and no fish. We’ve been working for hours, and nothing. “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch,” said Jesus. What does that mean to people who are weary?

Many of us feel we’ve done everything right, and the pandemic lingers. Some have gotten COVID despite being vaccinated and taking precautions. Many have faced job insecurity. I’m guessing most of us are experiencing a malaise from limiting our activities. Perhaps our tiredness with the pandemic has drawn us away from celebrating healthcare workers, but many are more overextended than ever. A lot of parents want to scream.

On Facebook, Lisa Hassenstab, a mother, Program Liaison at UW-Madison, and former LOPPW Council Member, posted the article, “COVID Parenting Has Passed the Point of Absurdity.” Lisa said, “This whole article is basically a text exchange I had yesterday with a group of mom friends who have been an indescribable source of strength and support for me.” In the article, a group of 20 mothers in Boston met outside a local high school to stand socially distanced in a circle and scream into the cold January air. “We can’t make this work. That’s the thing. It isn’t sustainable. Then we do it anyway,” one of the Boston mothers said.

“Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” What does that mean for you? Maybe it begins with naming reality followed by a scream or gratitude for a group that supports you, or being kind when we know life isn’t easy for anyone. In advocacy, it’s about being faithful, and attentive to long awaited breakthroughs. For all of us, it means Jesus entering into our ordinary lives as we are to make things holy; it means grace. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy