



## Grain

“Blessed are those in emotional turmoil; they shall be united inside by love. Healthy are those weak and overextended for their purpose; they shall feel their inner flow of strength return. Tuned to the Source are those feeling deeply confused by life; they will be returned from their wandering.” –Neil Douglas-Klotz’s Aramaic interpretation of “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.” (Mt. 5:4)

## Field

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets... Luke 6:20-25

## Thoughts

“And I’m no saint either,” the pastor at my seminary teaching parish jested during a sermon on All Saints Sunday. Members of that church did not ordinarily interact with the preacher during worship. But hearing the pastor’s claim about not being a saint, someone in the pews shouted, “Amen!” At that moment, I decided to never publicly announce not being a saint, fearing a hearty affirmation.

On a less humorous note, the pastor mentioned above was eventually driven out of that same congregation, and so was the next pastor. Back then, you’d occasionally hear of churches that had a habit of running pastors out the door. There were also congregations that endured abusive leadership for too long. Anecdotally, today, the stories of conflicts in churches seem more prevalent. Many say that the pandemic stretched some parishes’ ability to be in community too far and exasperated existing problems. One clergy recently mentioned that she thought parishioners were grieving smaller numbers of people showing interest in church. Many pastors are grieving too.

The Beatitudes include grieving: “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted,” (Mt. 5). “Blessed are they who weep.” (Lk. 6) The broad scenery of the Beatitudes includes people grieving over personal losses and the state of their broader communities and society. As imperfect saints, we complain and assign blame to, often times, unknowingly deal with unresolved grief. But we are called to a broader scenery in which even without having all the answers there is love.

On All Saints Sunday, we will remember the saints who have died before us. Let our remembrance soften our hearts for our wider church communities and our world. People sitting next to us and in the front of the church also have grief. As we mourn what is not right with society - how our water is not as clean, how many still go hungry, and political leaders face threats from extremists and have trouble finding common ground, let the landscape of the Beatitudes wash over you and reveal the love of Christ in all you do. And remember to make a plan to vote. 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)

Many blessings upon you,  
Pastor Cindy