

Monday Quotes



Grains

“Evangelism is simple invitation.” –Former Presiding Bishop Herbert Chilstrom

“There is another element that must be present in our struggle that then makes our resistance and nonviolence truly meaningful. That element is reconciliation. Our ultimate end must be the creation of the beloved community.” –The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Field

³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter). John 1:35-42

Thoughts

As a child I began attending Sunday school because my neighbor, another child, invited me. That is how I got involved with a Lutheran parish. My parents were lapsed churchgoers but supported me getting involved with congregational programs. My friend’s parents became my godparents.

There can be grace in asking someone to engage with worship, a church program, or a social justice event. We don’t need to ask verbatim, “What are you looking for,” as Jesus did before he said, “Come and see,” but having curiosity about people and listening to one another are important. When has your life been impacted after someone invited you? Evangelism through simple invitation usually isn’t from the pastor, but a lay member who is an adult or a child of the congregation.

We are approaching a time of year when we celebrate the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Consider what he invited people to. Dr. King and many other activists dared to imagine a world without racism and hunger, and they lived into a beloved community that countered injustice. As we approach January 16, we’ll find many invitations to events that inspire the vision of a beloved community.

This month, we also remember the anniversary of the insurrection. Invitations to assault our democracy and promote white nationalism, including “Christian nationalism,” flourished on social media leading up to the destruction. Many posts were probably blatantly violent, but some unloving invitations are more subtle. Be watchful.

Jesus said, “Come and see.” A couple of them heard John speak. Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. May we be instruments of God’s grace in responding and offering invitations to Christ in community. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,
Pastor Cindy Crane