

Monday Quotes



Grain

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.”

—The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Field

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. Matthew 4:17-23

Thoughts

In high school, the mother of one of my classmates joined a new religious group and left her family in Wisconsin to evangelize in another state. She called people on the streets to repent of their moral sins and find Jesus. My classmate shared that all of her mother’s letters were filled with warnings about evil and the Devil and were void of relatable questions about her family. My friend was devastated.

How can we tell if a call that prompts us to leave what is familiar is coming from a healthy, spiritual place? My friend’s mother’s invitation to leave her family didn’t seem like the one that the sons of Zebedee received. But why not? Aside from the obvious reasons, Jesus calls us to move away from narcissism into relationship. Regardless of where we stay or relocate geographically, we discern how we are being moved out of our cozy groups and biases. Are we being invited to include more people? Or, are we signing up for a narrower, exclusive group? For the sons of Zebedee, being called involved leaving their father and jobs. They may have returned to visit and help. Perhaps there were other family members to help the father. We don’t have the details. We do know that hope was in the air. A larger love would guide them to perceive God in others.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had his biological family and a church family. He was called to travel beyond both. In the name of God, he challenged us to move beyond our cozy groups based on race and white supremacist attitudes. He asked our nation to repent and to ask bigger questions about who we are and how we envision our neighbor.

Repentance isn’t only about addressing individual sins, but turning from a past way of perceiving. It is giving up on the notion that we have to be stuck in a way of thinking that any family or group limits us to. Repent. May God adjust how we envision and clarify how we are called in a network of mutuality. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy Crane