



Grain

“We have all known the long loneliness and we learned that the only solution is love that comes with community.” –Dorothy Day

Field

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” Matthew 9:9-13

Thoughts

Recently, I was (yet again) at a hearing on Safe Harbor, a bill that would decriminalize youth under 18 years old caught in what appears as prostitution rather than as child abuse. Despite bipartisan support for the bill, it still has not passed. In our testimonies, some of us are publicly asking law makers to bring out of the shadows the reasons for the bill dying in previous sessions.

At the hearing, a woman with lived experience talked about how different her life would be if when arrested for prostitution, someone asked her the right questions. Being domestically abused as a child and trafficked as a youth, she normalized the violence she experienced and from which she didn't realize she needed to escape. Today, everywhere she goes, her past follows her. She said that God and people who listen to her story give her hope. One of her listeners sat next to her, as she broke down during her testimony.

At the hearing, one of the legislators commented on how painful it was to hear the stories. It is also tedious to continue advocating on the same bill, but it's more difficult for those experiencing trafficking.

Jesus unearthed biases based on people's cultural identities, infirmities, and their actual and perceived mistakes. “Those who are well have no need for a physician.” Jesus said this in the context of sharing food and community. He didn't end with an explanation of his words, but with a challenge: “Go and learn what this means.” What does that mean at our family and community tables? What does it mean in our advocacy? Happy Monday!

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy