

Monday Quotes



Grains

“That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics.”

“Nonconformity is the highest evolutionary attainment of social animals.”

–Aldo Leopold

Field

³¹He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32

Thoughts

The parables sink us into the reality of another reign where wealth does not determine value. However much we struggle with trying not to define people solely based on their label levels or by how gleaming their power or material goods, that is not how God defines.

Jesus chose a small seed to talk about how the reign of God becomes apparent and spreads in our lives. But why a mustard seed? Was it only because mustard seeds grew into towering tree-like shrubs? What about their invasive nature? Why not choose a friendlier seed for the story? The reign of God develops in us slowly, and gradually invades or resists other powers competing for everyone’s loyalty. Sometimes it is one’s own life or ego that is disrupted. But this seed of God’s love that starts small and grows in and through us bears fruit in the sincerity of our relationships and how we love our neighbors and the earth despite voices that counter that love.

The parables in the Gospel readings for the last few weeks have been linked to the land with their images of spreading seeds in good soil and in places they cannot grow, separating wheat and weeds at the harvest, planting a mustard seed, finding a treasure in a field. At the same time, our contemporary news has been filled with stories about droughts and floods, which threaten our ability to cultivate the land. We are warned of the climate emergency and the need to raise our ambition to act. I agree. But so much begins with small revolutions on local levels in states such as Wisconsin, where pollution regulations have been rolled back over the last several years. Parts of the recent state budget addressing PFAS (forever chemicals) and testing of wells are hopeful. In the arena of renewable energy, much more is happening on a local level. Several municipalities are moving in a direction of significantly decreasing their greenhouse gas emissions. More congregations and individuals are following suit.

It is urgent to exercise small acts such as in our voting and advocating to love and respect the land. May we make room for God to work through us to disrupt powers defined by short-range visions and greed. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy