



Grain

“To confront a person with their own shadow is to show them their own light.” –Carl G. Jung

Field

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰... ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25:34-46

Thoughts

Both people we attract and repel recognize certain aspects of us that we may not notice. Some things only you and God know about yourself. Then there are parts of you that God alone fathoms. How interesting that in the parable, both those who embraced Christ’s mercy and those who acted without compassion were unaware of what they had done or left undone. Perhaps I am generous with most people but have targeted one person or group to take out my contempt on. Maybe I separate my faith on Sunday from how I engage in business because “business is business.” Or, my mission is so grand, the ends justify the means. There are also good actions we do without thinking. We sometimes don’t even notice how we love or devalue our neighbor and how that is reflected in our actions.

The psychologist, Carl Jung, claimed, “Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual’s conscious life, the denser it is. At all counts, it forms an unconscious snag, thwarting our most well-meant intentions.” But how can we recognize harmful gaps of unawareness? Careful listening and observing help. Answering the question spiritually, we won’t find perfection, but have faith that our shadow is not the total of who we are; we can experience forgiveness for harm we’ve created. We allow Jesus to help us unearth our shadow and also to find what is good in our being.

How have we been colonized to believe we should dominate the earth and each other? Jesus spoke of a kingdom that countered the way of empires of his day and ours. “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me” are words we’ll embrace on Christ the Reign Sunday. They counter hate and self-serving conspiracy theories. May the grace of Christ’s reign uncover our shadow and continue to shape us and embolden our voice. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy