

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“Love is fundamentally a death of an old self that was isolated, and emergence of a new self now entangled with another self, the self you fall in love with.” –Dr. Cornel West

### Field

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. Mark 9:2-9. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. Mark 9:2-9

### Thoughts by Reverend James Lynch, Town of Dunn, WI

A few years ago, at a gathering of pastors, a Luther Seminary professor made this point about the direction our society was taking: We could spend our entire lives in our cars if we wanted to. Everything we needed or wanted we could do in our vehicles – eat, sleep, order food and clothing, watch TV, listen to the radio, play games, work, talk to others, see others. Whatever we could do outside our cars, we could do inside. We would be autonomous entities inside autonomous entities. The only thing we would be missing, he said – with a dramatic pause, because after all, he was a seminary professor – is tangible, live, hands-on connections, to the rest of the world. This, sometimes, he said, is what it looks like we are coming to. Is this where we really wanted to end up?

Connections are paramount in our lives. To others. For others. With others. We are created by our God to be connected. To each other. To all of creation. Reaching backward, swirling in the present, marching ever forward. Without those connections, we might as well be stranded on a mountaintop or stumbling through a wilderness.

The Transfiguration highlights the power of the need for connection in the past, present and future. Jesus is linked in an almost overwhelming way to Israel’s greatest prophet and its greatest leader, which draws the disciples on the mountain to them. God hovers over this scene, tightening the circle even more.

Just as Jesus didn’t stay on the mountaintop, though, wouldn’t let the disciples remain there, wouldn’t let them avoid human connections, we can’t stay there either, can’t avoid them even if we want to. And we shouldn’t want to.

Connections to our neighbors, our brothers, and sisters, to those who have come before us, to those who are here with us, to those who are coming after us, help us to see and feel and live in our humanity and the humanity in all of those beyond us. They keep us grounded in the world that has been given to us by the God who is in the high places and the low places and all places.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Jim