

## Monday Quotes



### Grain

“We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it.” –Former President Barack Obama

### Field

<sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. John 15:4-8

### Thoughts

In Prairie du Sac in 2023, we heard news that a huge percentage of Wollersheim Winery's red grape crop was lost due to a long stretch of hot weather in April. "As state temperatures fluctuate between unseasonal highs and lows, and Wisconsin experiences extremes of droughts or heavy precipitation, local winemakers are feeling the effects of climate change," said Molly Meister in Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine. You can add your own news examples of local impacts related to our climate crisis.

When Jesus used the image of a vine in his parable, he wasn't talking about the environment, or was he in some way? The message about the life we find by abiding (remaining) in Christ is dynamic, not static.

A vine with branches and fruit provided rich imagery for the disciples, who were part of a rural culture that included vineyards. They were also clearer about their dependence on land and water than those of us who don't directly interact with either for our daily nourishment. It must have been powerful for the disciples to hear Jesus access such a known part of nature as a metaphor for their place with God and from which they could draw energy to engage the world with love.

In present time, especially when reflecting on Earth Day, the parable causes me to wonder literally about vines and the nature that surrounds them. When hearing of vines losing fruits because of weather impacted by climate change, the parable reminds us not only about how we humans are connected to God and one another, but how all life on the planet is.

As people of faith, we begin by knowing God is with us, a reality we need to be reminded of throughout our lives. What does it mean to remain in Christ? Today, part of remaining in Christ, our vine, is to care for the vines and all the earth and to let the earth care for us. There are signs of hope to uplift and emulate. But we also act as stewards in the way we live, advocate, vote, and encourage others to vote on all levels.

The roots of trees and other plants, that are communicating above and below ground, and intertwining vines are reaching to remain. As people of faith, may we be graced to know how wonderfully connected we all are and how to respond. Happy Monday!

### Share

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy