

KIN-DOM LIVING



“If scripture enjoins something at variance with the practices of its readers, or censures something that is not at variance with them, they consider the relevant expression to be figurative (always assuming that their minds are governed by the authority of the Word). But scripture enjoins nothing but love, and censures nothing but lust, and molds [our] minds accordingly. Similarly, if their minds are taken over by a particular prejudice, people consider as figurative anything that scripture asserts to the contrary...”

– St. Augustine

“...Therefore in dealing with figurative expressions we will observe a rule of this kind: the passage being read should be studied with careful consideration until its interpretation can be connected with the realm of love. If this point is made literally, then no kind of figurative expression need be considered.”

– St. Augustine



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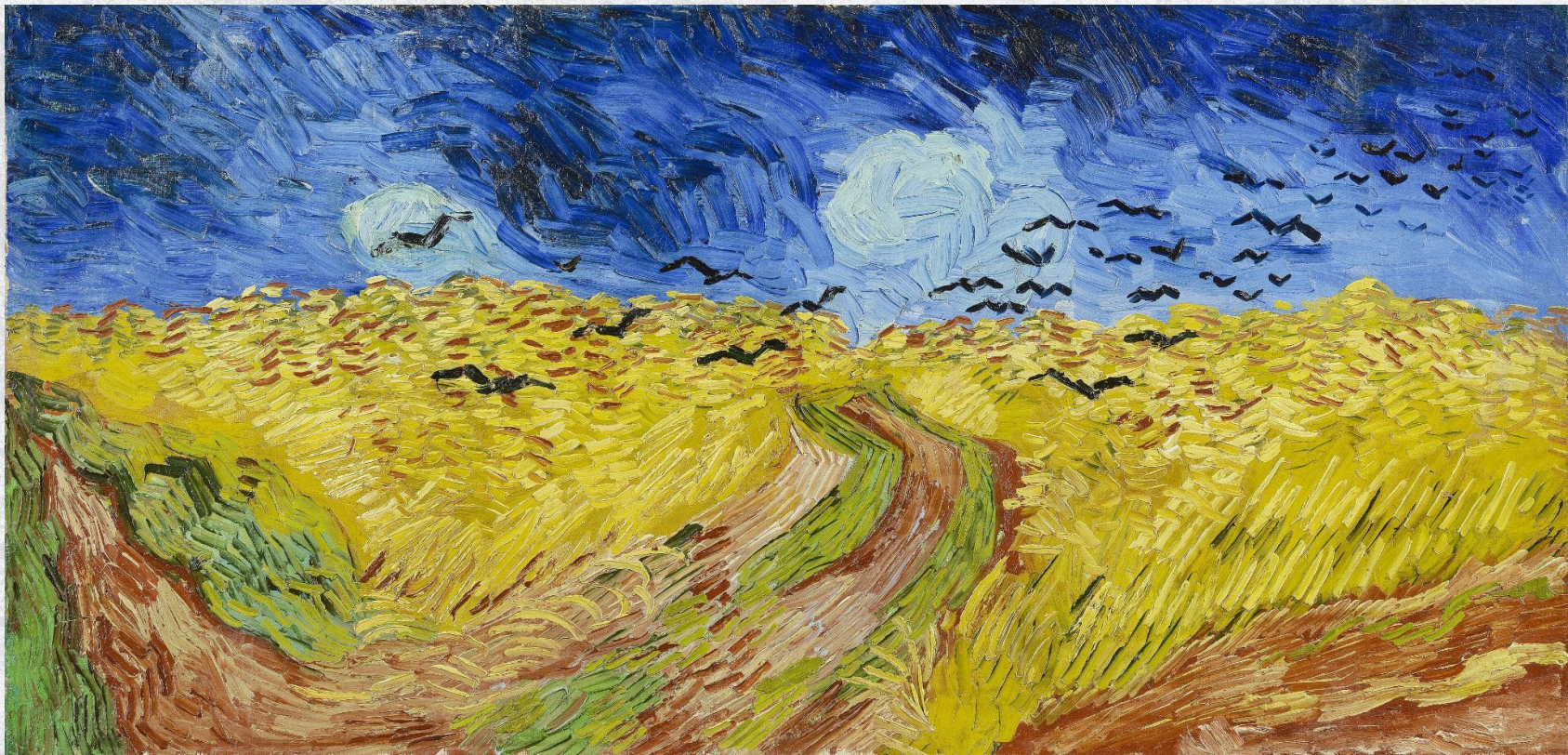
KIN-DOM LIVING IN THE EARLY CHURCH

“(T)he coming of the kin-dom of God has to do with a coming together of peoples, with no one being excluded and at the expense of no one.”

– Ada María Isasi-Díaz, *Mujerista Theology*



Image: *The Scriptorium Daily*



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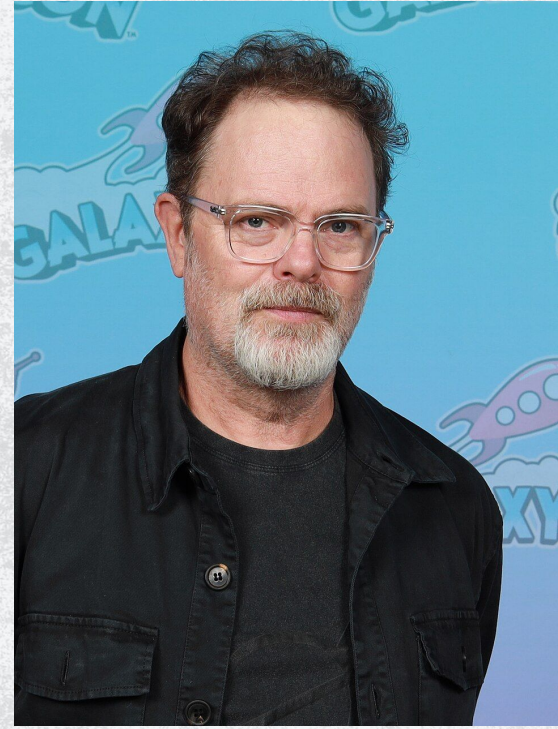


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“(N)ever before in the history of humanity had a more diverse group of people gathered and been welcomed, loved, and accepted than those early centuries of the church, where a church service would include a Phoenician sailor, a Roman gladiator, a Jewish theologian, a former slave, a former prostitute. And they would all be gathered, acknowledging Jesus as the Son and the Lord as the Father, seeking grace, reading the letters of Paul and praying, singing, worshiping together, and all being accepted...

“...That had never happened before in human history. Everything was tribal. And not only that, these early Christians sacrificed their time, their energy, their comfort, and their material wealth in service of others who weren't in their tribe. All those people would gather and they would go find a sick family of Samaritans, and they would give them food, and they would give them comfort and clothing...

“...And the Romans wrote about it. They were like, ‘What is up with these people? They are serving others that aren’t even the members of their tribe or family or race. What the hell is going on out here?’ And that’s one of the reasons, I believe, that early Christianity was seen as such a threat to empire. But that diversity of love, that open tent, that early movement of Christianity ... exemplifies the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.”



– Rainn Wilson

Image credit: [Super Festivals](#)

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Image: The Center for Action and Contemplation

“There was considerable diversity in early Christianity... (T)he diverse expressions of early Christianity seem to have been in vibrant contact with one another, sometimes conflicting, at other times seeming to agree to overlook differences, at other times seeking to persuade others of their own views/emphases... Nevertheless, in that swirling diversity we also see from a very early point strong efforts to establish trans-local and trans-ethnic commonality.”

– Larry Hurtado



Image: Flickr: Tunisia-4718 - A Banquet

“So, friends, every day do something
that won’t compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.”

– Wendell Berry, *Mad Farmer Liberation
Front*



Image: Carnegie Center
for Literacy & Learning



Image: The Center for Action and Contemplation

“There were no formerly heroic times, and there was no formerly pure generation. There is no one here but us chickens, and so it has always been: a people busy and powerful, knowledgeable, ambivalent, important, fearful, and self-aware; a people who scheme, promote, deceive, and conquer; who pray for their loved ones, and long to flee misery and skip death. It is a weakening and discoloring idea, that rustic people knew God personally once upon a time – or even knew selflessness or courage or literature – but that it is too late for us.

“In fact, the absolute is available to everyone in every age. There never was a more holy age than ours, and never a less. There is no less holiness at this time...than there was the day the Red Sea parted, or that day...as Ezekiel was a captive by the river Chebar, when the heavens opened and he saw visions of God... There is no whit less might in heaven or on earth than there was the day Jesus said ‘Maid, arise’ to the centurion’s daughter, or the day Peter walked on water...

“In any instant the sacred may wipe you with its finger. In any instant the bush may flare, your feet may rise, or you may see a bunch of souls in a tree. In any instant you may avail yourself of the power to love your enemies; to accept failure, slander, or the grief of loss; or to endure torture.”

– Annie Dillard, *For the Time Being*



February 5, 1974

Jill K. Klementz

Annie Dillard

Image: Jill Klementz,
The Atlantic

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THIS WEEK'S TITLE IN UPPERCASE

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