

Various Quotes to ponder

The following quotes are meant to be a gift to you from me. I have gathered them over the years. I come back to the wise words of others again and again.

1. "Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace."
Jesus, Matthew 11:28 (The Message)
2. "To our amazement we find that the place where we screw up the most is the place where God loves us the most. Nothing is closer to the heart of the gospel than this."
Belden C. Lane, *Backpacking with the Saints*, p.137
3. "When we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.
The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not-knowing, not-curing, not-healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares.
Henri J.M. Nouwen, Source unknown
4. "There is no safe investment. To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."
C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, (London, Geoffrey Bles, 1960, VI-138-139)
5. "Most people speak without intention; they simply say whatever comes to mind. Speak with intention and your actions take on new purpose."
Chilean philosopher, Fernando Flores
6. "The desert has taught them well. They are what the church has been summoned to be, a community of broken people, painfully honest, undomesticated, rid of the pretence and suffocating niceness to which 'religion' is so often prone. They love, inexplicably and unflinchingly, because of having been so loved themselves."
Belden C. Lane, *The Solace of Fierce Landscapes*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1998, page 195
7. "People cannot hear you unless they are moving toward you..." " ,which means that as long as you are in a pursuing or rescuing position, your message will never catch up, no matter how eloquently or repeatedly you articulate your ideas."
Edwin H. Friedman, *A Failure of Nerve: Leadership in the Age of the Quick Fix*, New York: Seabury Books, 2007, page 203

From a Couple of my Favourite Books:

Dan B. Allender, PhD, *Leading With A Limp*, Colorado Springs, WaterBrook Press, 2006

8. "Here is God's leadership model: he chooses fools to live foolishly in order to reveal the economy of heaven... He calls us to brokenness, not performance; to relationships, not commotion; to grace, not success." p.55
9. "A leadership team is meant to be a community of friends who suffer and delight in one another. And to the degree there is a refusal to be friends, there will be

hiding, game playing, politicizing power, and manipulating the process to achieve invulnerability." p.123

10. "It is far easier to build a sense of who we are on the grounds of what we oppose than on what we dream of creating." p.132
11. "...the aim of a leader's activity is not the growth of the organization [or church]. It's not even meeting needs or doing good. The purpose of limping leadership is the maturing of character." p.143
12. "We can't grow glory in another person without embracing our own." p.148
13. "...leadership that tells the truth must acknowledge, 'I am not [complete] yet, nor are you. Therefore, when we are together, there will inevitably be tragic failures of love.'" p.177

Crabb, Larry. *Connecting, A Radical New Vision: Healing For Ourselves And Our Relationships*. Nashville, TN: Word Publishing, 1997

13. "At the exact center of the human personality is a capacity to give and receive in relationship, a capacity or possibility that defines what it means to be alive as a human being." p. 34
14. "It is hard to be seen at your worst. Perhaps that's why our deepest tears are often shed alone. But tears without an audience, without someone to hear and care, leave our wounds unhealed. When someone listens to our groanings and stays there, we feel something change inside us. Despair seems less necessary; hope begins to stir where before there was only pain." p. 127
15. "We must face the hard truth that no one loves well who hasn't suffered." p. 127

A bit more wisdom for you – well worth chewing on:

16. "You can't change the way you are if you can't admit to the way you've been."
Pat Conroy, *The Prince of Tides*, page 570
17. "Not receiving any blessing from your father is an injury. Robert Moore said, 'If you're a young man and you're not being admired by an older man, you're being hurt.'"
Robert Bly, *Iron John*, page 31
18. "There they go, tiptoeing through life, only to arrive at death safely."
Friedrich Nietzsche, source unknown
19. "Madness is doing the same thing over and over and hoping for a different result."
Source unknown