

A WEARY WORLD: Week Four

BORROWING HOPE

Tuesday: Still, We Rise

I have the opportunity today to share my reflections on what I believe are two of the most important pages in the entire Weary World Book with today's theme - "Still, we Rise." This theme is centered around the question we can all start the day with by asking ourselves:

"Who or What is helping you still rise, giving you hope?"

As the author states, some days (many this past year due to the pandemic) may feel incredibly discouraging especially if we have gotten caught up in listening to the news or following some social media sights. I cannot agree with the author more when she states, "I am not certain of much, but there is good in the world despite the hard." My daughter, daughter in law and I witnessed this first hand yesterday as we dressed in Elf costumes and walked up and down Main Street Seneca. In our attempt to bring some smiles to people's faces, we got so much more in return. We all know the holidays and our lives look different this year, but the people we talked to yesterday on the streets of Seneca and in Soul Provider still had smiles on their faces and still shared some giggles with us. Still we Rise. I so agree with the author, Kathy Escobar, when she states, "Humans are incredible. We endure. We survive. We find ways to keep going. We hope against all odds." The holidays can be some of the bluest and loneliest times. I consider myself incredibly blessed, but I also respect the painful memories of past Decembers - losing my Dad to pancreatic cancer, having my youngest son, Tanner, diagnosed with cancer the day after Thanksgiving, watching Cory face some of his darkest days battling depression and addiction, and losing one of my dearest friends to cancer on New Year's Eve. But yet, somehow, I was able to do exactly what the author describes when we "rise out of bed" into the arms of a God and people who love and care about us. Another important point in Tuesday's reading was the warning by Brene Brown, in regard to "comparative suffering" which means we minimize our pain when we don't think it's as hard, big, or real as others. Let's Just Be Honest.... Many of us, myself included, are feeling the pain of not being surrounded by all our children this Christmas due to the pandemic. You may think your hurt is not that big of a deal when you see what others have faced this past year, but your pain is real. My prayer is that whatever the hurt anyone who is reading this right now is experiencing from the heart-wrenching pain of losing a loved one or not being able to hug a grandchild this Christmas, that our summaries from a Weary World and walking through the steps of Honoring Reality, Practicing Honesty, Embracing Paradox, and Borrowing Hope, have helped you realize that you are never alone and there is always Hope out there waiting to be borrowed if you have lost yours. The final topics in our book are bursting with hope entitled: Just Breathe, A Time for Everything, Meeting Calamity with Serenity, and God is With Us.