



What does it mean to take all our experiences, all the material of our lives as an act of faith?

These are difficult days for many all over the world. After many years of hoping for progress in living with one another, for equal rights and opportunities, anger and violence over countless issues such as justice, race and affiliations have reached new intensity. Loss of civility and manners in public life is producing a new meanness of spirit that often makes life unnecessarily challenging.

Perhaps you did notice that only a few days ago the world remembered the Holocaust, the impassioned and indiscriminate killing of millions, men and women, children. But newer news blared into our ears, shocked us ... the impassioned and indiscriminate killing of men and women, and even children in our Canadian backyard.

How can anything like this be happening? What possible reason, purpose can all that have? Can anything good come from that?

How can we still believe in the goodness of God when there is so much evil, senselessness, and suffering in the world? And it is easy to google that particular question and get hollow answers. Some sites go so far to speak of the concepts of evil and good as only figments of imaginations.

Indiscriminate hate, evil can only be answered with indiscriminate love, good...only be answered with the same answer God gave to the world. God doesn't answer the question of "Why?" Rather than getting into arguments with people, God the Father acts in love by sending his son, by responding to evil with good. And in the same way, God the Son cannot act any differently, but to respond to evil with good. Jesus offers peace, hope and joy in the midst of human tragedies, amidst the evil he offers forgiveness; ***“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are***

doing," amidst despair he offers hope; " "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Maybe you have an answer to the "Why?" But looking at Jesus, I cannot help to see God's response, his indiscriminate love which feels very unnatural, because it is void of our natural tendencies of selection and favoritism. And that is indeed true, Jesus' love is free from favoritism and does not select people but is freely given to all.

God does know us at the core and still chooses to love us for all of who we are, come what may.

- *"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." Rom 5:8*

I know that does not answer the "Why?" question, but if there is one thing we may glean from the tragedies that surround us and we even experience ourselves, I hope we hope in Jesus Christ. That we go to God today and say, "I, like Jesus, don't want to be overcome by evil or defined by the evils I have suffered, I have witnessed or have been part of! I don't want to be shaped by the evils of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of my heart, soul and mind. Let me remember that I am sent with the same message just as Jesus was sent with."

Evil did not overcome him, and if he is with you and for you and in you, it will not overcome you either, but rather, will you be a hope bringer in the midst of this life and silence the voices of revenge and hate.

As we pray, may we remember God's indiscriminate love.

Your friend

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