

Making Sense of Quite a Muddled Mess

Part 1

For most of us, we look at the recent news and at one moment our hearts are filled with horror, then the next with profound sadness. Yet in all of this we find ourselves with a desire to know what our God would have us to do? What should be the response of a true believer in Christ in difficult days such as these? However, even as we ponder such questions, we find ourselves at a loss as to where we might begin. For me, when I am not sure where to begin, I find that this is usually an indication that I must begin with myself. How am I seeing the world around me, is it the result of my understanding of my God and that which He has revealed to me through His Word? I look on one side and I see videos replayed of an act of brutality against a fellow man and I am deeply troubled. I look on the other side and I see violence in the streets that I had only seen, in America, in grainy footage from the riots in the sixties, and again I am deeply troubled. Yet, in all of this I see a sad reality, that when the people of God are to be coming together to be light and salt in their world, they seem to be perplexed as to what is right in terms of how to feel and what to say.

So here is what I say to myself. As a believer in Christ, I am convinced that what the Bible says about man is absolutely true. Man is fallen, sin has its grip on the throats of human beings with a tenacity that only Christ Himself can break. It holds men and women with a power that they are incapable of freeing themselves from. Sin is merciless and it is without pity. It will destroy any and all that remain under its authority. For this reason, I find myself saying, as I behold scenes such as we are constantly being made to view: *'I hate sin with a perfect hatred'*. I realize that the root cause of all that ails our societies is the result of sin in the world, or more accurately, sin in people. So, with these things in mind, I need to decide how I will navigate through days such as these.

While I am not on social media, and I don't have any objection to people using those platforms, I do realize that they can present certain problems for our thinking. All platforms of that sort are designed to allow each person to share their opinions, but this is typically done so as if my opinions or my feelings are actually truth. At the same time the Christian must recognize that the Word of God is truth. We are called upon by our Lord to recognize that the truth of Scripture is supposed to set us apart from the rest of the world and its views and opinions.

Jn.17:17- Sanctify them through thy truth: *thy word is truth.*

2Co 6:7 *By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left...*

With this in mind, I do recognize something that is increasingly clear in our world today. We live in a world that is vastly moving, in all areas, toward a secularized perspective. A world that mocks the idea of a Creator God and opts for the lie of evolution. In that, I understand what is a large part of man's frustration and anger. You see, as the secularized culture looks up from its textbooks it is confronted with a serious discrepancy. If evolution is true, which is their only hope to escape a Creator God, then why is man not evolving? Why is man constantly killing his fellow man? Why is their hatred, racism, crime, child abuse? These questions evolution cannot answer and thus the world becomes increasingly frustrated. However, the answer is not far to be found. In the Book of Genesis, God tells us why these things are so. He tells us that man rebelled against his Maker and brought sin into the world.

Rom.5:19a- *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners.* The impact of this reality came swiftly into man's world and has not left him since. **Gen.4:8-** *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.* Ever since that dread day, man has mistreated his fellow man, he has been cruel and brutal to his neighbor. Why, because sin was in the world, sin was in man. This is why we are told concerning second commandment: **Mt.22:39-** *...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Gal.5:14- *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

Why is this so significant? Because it reveals to us the heart of God and the inability of man. God says to us that this is what is right and what He requires and the law brings in all as guilty. We then come to discover that only by Christ can this be fulfilled. But, at the same time, it helps us understand our world. God commands love because it is not common to fallen man to do so. Oh, he may do so to those in his sphere of influence. He will love his family and friends, but he finds it difficult to go beyond these. We, as believers know this to be true. We hear Jesus telling us that we are to love our enemies and we quietly say to ourselves, *'is that really possible.'* Then we are taught by the Lord that the reason we must do so is because God does so. Here again we are made to see God as the standard of truth, not our thoughts, opinions or feelings on the matter. Thus, we discover that what is common, as a result of sin, is hate and this the world cannot, in its own power change. Man can build, he can create medicines, he can even put a man on the moon, but he cannot change the human heart. Sin is in man and Christ is the only answer.

Therefore, as God's people, we need to be saying to a fallen world that there is a reason that they see these things on their televisions. Sin! There is only one answer, Christ! This is our opportunity as God's people, in light of the present unrest, to sit down with unbelieving family, friends and neighbors. (At a safe social distance of course 😊) We need to help them understand, from a biblical perspective, why the world is as it is, why these scenes continue to play out before our eyes. Then we need to gently, with love and tenderness, point them to God's remedy. We need to demonstrate from Scripture that man is not the product of evolution but of creation. That he is not in need of a further evolution that will bring him to some new utopia, but of being born again. This, we alone can explain to them and therefore we must see it as our obligation to do so. At the same time, for our own sanity and spiritual well-being, we need to have a biblical perspective on all matters from justice to how we treat or even view one another. This requires that the Word of God be our guide, not only in matters of belief but of heart and practice as well. Tomorrow we will begin to examine how the Bible would have us look at justice in our society.

May our Lord richly bless you in these troubled times.

Pastor Mark