



Advent Reflection

Day #18

Wednesday, December 16

Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18,21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23

We live in an imperfect and unjust world; yet as Christians, we are to believe in a perfect Creator who cares for us and will save us. As we go through our days attempting to live out a message of love in a world seemingly full of hate, it is easy to feel a desire for reassurance; to want a direct answer to all our doubts and prayers.

In this Gospel, John asks Jesus for a direct answer to a very similar question that many of us battle with every day. He asks, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” For many of us, this question is “Are you out there God?” and just like how God answers our prayers, Jesus does not give John a direct answer. He tells John to look at His actions.

One of God’s greatest gifts was to make us in His image; which means to give us reason and free will through which we can choose our own path. To choose our path, we use these gifts to construct our own filters on the world. We are able to reason a viewpoint of reality that allows us to explain the world around us and gives us the basis for our decisions.

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Though made in the image of God, we are still imperfect beings and our filters are imperfect. Therefore, these imperfections prevent us from seeing the true reality of the world. As a result, we make wrong choices; we run into problems, and which path we should choose becomes unclear. As Christians, when we are faced with problems we turn to God. However, when a son comes to his father with a problem, a good father does not tell the son what he should do but subtly guides him to the answer while still letting him discover it on his own. This is why I believe God does not speak directly to us. He would be removing our ability to grow. By simply giving us the answers we seek, He would be taking from us the gift of discovering them ourselves.

So during this season of Advent, as we remember Jesus's coming and prepare for His second coming, a good question to ask ourselves is "Does my filter allow me to see God's actions?" When a man lays down his life to save someone else, do we only see the horror of the loss of life or do we also see the Christ-like love that man had. Under the perception that a vaccine would take at least a year and a half to develop, the reality of just 8 months is astounding. Do we see this only as a crowning human achievement in science? Do we also see this as a miracle? The only way we can ever hope to strengthen our relationship with God and reconcile in our minds and hearts the realities of this world with the reality of God is to be able to look at reality and see His actions in it. Just like a parent, God is guiding us to the answers we seek but it is up to us to see His guidance.

Reflection by Holy Name Cathedral Parishioner Michael Bucior