

Reflection April 5, 2020
Christ died for us
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The Readings today are about the Sacrifice that Christ was willing to endure for us – for me. It is a mystery to me as to why He would do such a thing. I have wondered about this and perhaps have found a partial answer to that question.

Nothing good in this world comes without sacrifice. The ability to create good music requires great sacrifice of time and effort. Great art, great civilizations, great endeavors of every kind require personal and community sacrifice. Creating a happy home and stable families require husbands and wives to self sacrificing love, time and resources.

Everything good that we see around us required the sacrifice of someone somewhere at some time. The greater the beauty and the greater the goodness the greater was the sacrifice. This is something that we instinctively know even when we have what we want without sacrifice.

Genesis 1:27 “God created mankind in His image; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

There are various concepts of what God is. One concept is that of a “Watch Maker” God. A God that created the universe and now simply sits back and watches it unfold.

For me, this concept of God is worse than the concept that God does not exist. The universe is violent in every aspect. We exist in time and space. We are aware of the beginning and end of the universe. Human beings are frail, foolish, unpredictable creatures. Without purpose, without love we are filled with despair. We need to search for God. We need to have purpose. We need to create. We need to love. What kind of cruel god would have created or simply allowed the existence of such a lonely frail creature only to watch him run around in an intricate maze without hope?

As Christians and as Catholics we are taught that Christ sacrificed Himself for us. We accept the concept of sacrifice but struggle with the question, “Why is it necessary”. God does not need our sacrifice. God’s laws are not meant for His satisfaction. God’s laws, all them, are meant for our good.

Hosea 6:6 New International Version

“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”

Psalm 50:12-15

“If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.
Do I eat the flesh of bulls?
or drink the blood of goats?

Sacrifice thank offerings to God,
fulfill your vows to the Most High,
and call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

If what I wrote at the beginning of the reflection - Nothing good in this world comes without sacrifice - what did God sacrifice?

Human beings are called to make sacrifices in order to create that which is good. It is hard for me to believe that God would hold us to a concept greater than Himself. We could worship, fear, despair and sacrifice to a cruel god, a watch maker god or a god that needs to be placated. We could never love and long for such a God. We are able to sacrifice ourselves for others and for God out of love knowing that God Himself sacrificed Himself for us. We can know that we are a creature created with love because our maker loved us and was willing to suffer and die for us. We can become the “good” that he created because He was willing to love us that much.