

dec 7

what can i say about this morning? it was a morning of tears and weeping. i know we would all rather have those moments of ecstasy in His presence, but that it not always His will. there is, "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." eccl 3:4 yes, there is a time for every season.

this was my time to cry. tears for other's unsaved loved ones as well as for some i am standing for. tears for all those whose lives are in shambles because they have not surrendered. tears for those brethren who are suffering for their faith in our Lord. tears for those trapped in trafficking with only God to hear their cries. tears that were not my own, but tears i felt coming from the heart of the Father. He was allowing me to share in His heartbreak. "and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them." matt 13:15

He stands ready to heal the broken hearted; ready to receive those who would come to Him. even ready to forgive those who have corrupted their wisdom with their knowledge. an example that comes to mind is oprah winfrey. i well remember her early days when she often spoke of Jesus. later, through her wealth and worldly knowledge, she determined that Jesus could not be the only way to God. if that be the case, then His suffering and death would have been in vain. that is, if there were other paths to God. i only know what my faith demands i believe.

my doctor is a muslim. so is the nurse who attends me weekly. (to those who don't know, i am currently in hospice but God is doing a work.) she and i have had many spirited discussions. i have even recently purchased a koran to help me understand more of their beliefs. i pray she would also purchase a bible and we could see which words had the most effect; which writings are life and not just words. one only needs to start with the chapter of john, and go from there.

it seems to be that she was saying, the latest word from God must be the dominant one. meaning, i guess, that the prophet Jesus was born too soon. of course, my argument was that He was not just a prophet. from what i understand: muslims believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, believe He did mighty miracles, believe He came from God and was a prophet, believe that He is coming back as judge. i think koran even testifies to His death and resurrection: "i will cause thee to die, and i will raise thee to me, and i will purify thee of those who believe not. i will set thy followers above the unbelievers till the resurrection day." (Sura al Imran 55) and that He did an ascension into heaven.

i readily confess they have some good teachings about morality. teachings that would put our american culture to shame for sure. however, she seemed to keep talking about keeping all these teachings as a way to earn her way into heaven. but what about payment for our failings? we all have them. there, and the divinity of Jesus remains our biggest controversy. we can never "earn" our way to heaven. our God is so holy, we could never earn our way into His presence.

"for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." eph 2:8-9

my later career was spent working for a muslim. there was always a respect for people of different religions. the owner even use to jokingly call me "his office wife". there are several there, also muslims, that i treasure and hold dear. they always treated me with courtesy and fondness, as i believe i did them. a few have even called to encourage me in my illness. (i cannot over emphasize how important it is to console someone in their time of need.)

so, love them? yes, i even love them. it is a love beyond human love. it is a love God has put unto my heart for them. they too were in my tears this morning. i know there is a possibility that even writing this perhaps will open a wound that might not heal. yet what can i do? i cannot fail to testify and witness of my belief. i am not a judge. but there is coming a day and a judge. just to share what i believe is truth, is all that is required of me; to share and to love. the Holy Spirit must do the rest.

we are all seeking to find our way in this maze. if they have the peace in their heart that i have in mine, how can i dispute them? "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." phil 4:7 His peace is our guide. it is that peace alone that will get us through all the traps and devious devices of the enemy. all i would desire is for them to cry out to God in their hearts. "Father, merciful God and creator of all

things, show me your truth and i will follow it." if that is one's cry and His peace fills your heart, all i can say is "God be with you".

i will continue to lean upon the peace i feel in my heart. i will continue on this path He has set for me, confessing along the way, "Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." psa 23:4 even in the shadow of death. "for i am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." rom 8:38-38 i am persuaded and i have His peace within me. do you?

linda