

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock, and my Redeemer. Amen (Psalm 19:1)

For the last several weeks, I have been in a fog. A fog of political rhetoric, mass killings, dead priests, terrorism, and violence.

Every day it is something new. I just want to bury my head in the sand, ignore the headlines. You know, just pull the sheets over my head.

If it is not Isis, it is "he is a bigot" or "she is a criminal"" , he cheated," or "she cheated".

The economy will fail if the United Kingdom leaves the European Union or stocks will go up if the United Kingdom leaves the European Union.

Talk, Talk, Talk, the noise is endless.

People and government leaders are more worried which bathroom people should use and forget that there are thousands of homeless people that do have a bathroom to use or a bed to sleep in.

I realize all these distractions are designed to distract us from the real problems that are hidden in plain sight, right in front of them.

In the meanwhile, the experts and our leadership are talking Gibberish and there is violence and drugs raging in the streets, we have an education system in shambles, the earth is pillaged for profits for the very few.

The constant bombardment of negativity, IT'S JUST OVERWHELMING.

And I am not blameless in this chaos. I cannot not point fingers without pointing a finger at the man in the mirror.

I am sure that you passed at least one homeless person begging on a corner today. I know I passed several of the homeless and I did nothing, I cannot fix it myself, whatever I do will not help.

I am done,

I give up, it is too screwed up to fix.

What can I do?

### **I'm SO Done**

I paint a bleak picture, do not I; I am sure that many of you feel the same way.

The people of the ancient times had the same problems and frustrations as we have now.

In today's first reading, God through the prophet Isaiah compares the leadership of Jerusalem to the people of Sodom. A people more concerned with rituals and sacrifices than their relationship with God.

Several commentaries interpret their relationship with God as "being centered on justice and care for the orphans. They did not try to "rescue the oppressed" or "defend the orphan" or "provide for the poor".

I believe we could make the same comparison to the world's leadership today. Like Jerusalem, they more concerned with all of their power, lofty speeches, ridiculous tweets, traditions, poles, and ceremonies. Yet they did nothing to feed the poor, or shelter to the homeless.

They did and we do, ignore injustice and do not plead for the voiceless of the world.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tell us "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

But here is the good news, because there is always good news.

The Spirit works in strange ways and through the people, we meet.

Recently I was in an outreach meeting, where one of the women gave the group an update on the village in Ghana she has been working with. A village where the problems are too many to count.

Yet in the midst of the chaos there is good news because many people all doing tiny, tiny projects. Each project may seem inconsequential by itself, but collectively these tiny acts of kindness and love are life changing.

Each tiny good deed, or MITZVAH, to quote my Jewish friends, are bricks that is used to build a better life for the people of this small village. The Gospel today we hear sell your possessions and give alms to the poor.

Make a purse that no one can ever take away. God is telling us to get our priorities right.

Let me give you an example; I could go to Best Buy and purchase a new laptop for \$900 to replace an older model that is in working condition. But for the same amount of money, I can provide a scholarship that would provide room, board, and tuition for boy or girl from the village in Ghana for one entire year.

In two years, that new laptop will be outdated again, disposable. However, that year of education can never be taken away from that child; the gift is permanent and life changing. The knowledge that you had a direct positive effect on a child's life is permanent and life changing for you.

That direct connection for giving and receiving is much better than writing a check or purchasing some toiletries for CARITAS this December.

Now I do not want you to get it wrong idea, all donations for CARITAS are greatly accepted.

However, would it not be better for you to share some of your time, to get to know some of our guests face to face? The feeling of bonding, humanity, and community is a gift that is permanent and more valuable than toiletries. Letting our guests know that they are loved and cared for is a gift that cannot be taken away.

What I am trying to say is that the problems of the world are so massive and overwhelming that it is easy to give up. If we all, each and every one of us, did a tiny bit to improve the quality of life of the people we meet daily, collectively those bricks of kindness and love will become the walls of the mansions in the kingdom of God here today.

My son Justin and I are both Eagle Scouts, and both of us try to live up to it motto "Be Prepared". Well Justin and I were at a church service where the Baptismal Covenant was said. Justin, the master of understatement, commented that the baptismal covenant and the Eagle Scout charge were almost identical. And he observed that perhaps we were not living up to the oaths we have made. How much better would our world be if we just lived up to the covenant we have made?

I do not want to sound like a politician but one man cannot fix it all of the world problems, despite what is said. However, we collectively can.

The problems of the world seem overwhelming at times, but DON'T GIVE UP. In Hebrews, we heard Faith, faith. Faith in God, because all the promises that God has EVER made have been for fulfilled through faith.

The feeling of hopelessness can be changed into an empowering feeling by pushing back the negativity. Push back with every positive act, every MITZVAH rebuilding your spirit.

I get a kick out of religious bumper stickers. Last week I read one that said, "Look Busy, God is coming". We are having a ministry fair in a few weeks. Please stop by, see how you can make a few bricks of kindness, and love for the Kingdom on earth.

Love your neighbor, Don't Look Busy, Get Busy.

Amen