

I am Angry!



One by one the news rolled in; this person died this morning, this person died last night, did you hear that Sis So and So died? Oh my God! What is going on? Within a period of seven days I was given the news of at least 10 people I knew or were related to someone I knew had died. It was really a very hard week. It took a toll on my emotions and while I tried to keep it in check, the dam broke when I heard of the death of a beloved sister within my own congregation.

I began to reflect on the many promises of God, and I remembered that the plague that fell on the people in Egypt had not fallen on the children of Israel. So why was this happening to God's people? Is he the same God yesterday, today and forever? There were many questions ricocheting in my mind. Why is this happening? Where are you God in all of this? You are a God of justice and mercy so where is your justice and mercy when so many good people are dying from this virus? Didn't you say that no evil would befall your people neither would any plague go near their dwelling? Then how is it that your people are being numbered with the unrighteous? How is it that our sisters and brothers that we have prayed for earnestly have still died at the cruel hands of this plague?

For a while I struggled with the tumult of raging questions, thoughts and feelings. I felt angry at what I deemed the senseless loss of good people. I found it hard to reconcile what was happening with what I thought should be happening.

It would have been so easy to give in to the despair that envelop my heart and soul, but the thought came, that it could have been worse. Amidst the constant bombardment of negative news, I also received news of many that had survived the attack of the virus. Some were elderly brethren and others to my amazement had underlying health issues. I remembered that God said that He would have mercy on whom he will and compassion on whom He will. As I ponder on the sovereignty of God my mind was taken back to Job. He was a righteous and perfect man before God. God was so pleased with him that he boasted about him. "Have you considered my servant Job?" Job then experienced a series of tests. Tests which were of no mean feat; loss of wealth, loss of lineage and loss of health, rejection from wife and ridiculed by close friends. This was more than enough to cause ordinary man living without God and without hope to commit not only spiritual suicide but a physical one too. However, despite his

depression and His anguish, Job recognised that all power resided in God and so declared, “The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh, blessed be the name of the Lord”.

The more I began to acknowledge God’s sovereignty the more the anger in me began to subside. Who am I to argue with the Almighty for his decisions? He knows best. With that also came the acknowledgement that God gave us the gift of this earth and it was our duty to take care of it. We have gone against His laws, directions and guidelines for a good healthy life. Then how can we blame him when we suffer the consequences of our greed, our evil actions and lawless living? How can we demand that he steps in and fix what we have broken? We often act like babies having a temper tantrum when we see the results of our poor decisions.

My mind travelled once again to the Children of Israel and how God protected them from the plagues. He was responsible for sending the plagues on the Egyptians and there was a purpose to it. The overarching goal for the plagues was to free his people and it was necessary for Him to protect them and their dwelling in Goshen. The plague served another purpose as it totally depicted God’s might, power and glory. It demoralised the Egyptians and allowed the Israelites to leave with some of their oppressors’ wealth as part payment for their years of slavery.

I do believe that the virus was not sent by my loving God. I do believe that while this was not a part of God’s divine will it had to pass through His hands before it came to us and so while He did not stop it, it could have been worse. I am also convicted that despite the tragedies, the heart ache and pain there will be some good outcomes to this. At least the earth has been given some reprieve and it has begun to heal itself. Knife crime in England has gone down, families have begun to spend time with each other and hopefully the church will recognise the opportunities it has been given and will seize the moment to serve.

Today I am no longer angry instead I have hope.

