

## Daily Meditation 10-22-22

### The Price of Democracy and the Price of Compassion

Good morning.

In today's meditation, we addressed the question of the price of democracy and the price of compassion.

Many people have paid a great price to support democracy, the millions who died in the Second World War as just one example.

In America, those who died in the Civil War. As the war went on, there was a gradual recognition that what was at stake was not only the Union as such, but the overthrowing of racism and slavery, and treating so much of the population that was black and enslaved, as objects and not, certainly not as citizens.

And so the constitutional amendments, 14 and 15, that followed on the war, were definitely an effort to implement the results of the defeat of the Confederacy, and the defeat of slavery and all that implies in terms of treating others as inferiors.

Now, Albert Nolan stresses that the beginning of faith in Jesus is the attempt to read the signs of our times as Jesus read the sign of the times in his day. And, says, Nolan, we would have to begin, as Jesus did, with compassion. It is only when, like the Good Samaritan, we discover our common humanity, that we should begin to experience what Jesus experienced. So faith means living out respect and compassion for humans, all humans, no matter what tribes.

He says, on pages 139 and 40 of his book,

*In the last analysis, faith is not a way of speaking. And it's not a way of thinking. It is a way of living, and can only be adequately articulated in a living praxis. Christ did not regard, the truth is something we simply uphold and maintain, but as something we choose to live --*

...choose to live...

*...and experience. Our search, like his search, is primarily a search for orthopraxis, that is, for true practice, rather than orthodoxy, which is true doctrine. Only a true practice of the faith can verify what we believe. It's in this context that compassion comes forward as the very meaning of faith. It's the way we live and choose to live. It is caring about the least -- as Matthew 25 says, do it to the least you do it to me. It's caring about justice, about fairness. It is overcoming racism and sexism....yes, and homophobia. That is the practice. That is the true meaning of following Christ.*

All this obviously bubbles up into today's election debates.

There is a party that is in denial of climate change.

Well, if we are resisting acting against climate change, we are certainly involved in the murder of millions of human beings and the extinction of thousands, if not millions, of other species, as the seas rise, as the hurricanes increase in velocity and number, as the wildfires increase in velocity and number, as droughts multiply, and as people die of starvation, because the plants know that there is climate change going on, great heating of the planet, even if certain people of certain political party do not or pretend they do not because their heads are in the sand because they are in bed with dark money forces, including fossil fuel companies that are making money on the destruction of the planet.

All this is about compassion; therefore all of this is about following Jesus, if that is your choice to follow, or following the Jewish prophets from which he derived his consciousness, if that is your path to follow, or following the Buddha, or any one else who is showing the way of compassion.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.