

Lall Murder Tragedy - Good, Evil, and where was God?

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[LALLNews Report] (1)What a tragic story! It's **inexplicable...** [DETAILS]... **PAUSE...** What do you do with **a reality like this?**... **PAUSE...** Even the police can't process it... Chief Rick Hanson, "(2) When you have a crime scene that is this horrendous, when it's this traumatic, when there's a family involved, there's just so many unanswered questions." Globe May 29th

PAUSE... So many unanswered questions... **PAUSE** "What happened?"... **PAUSE...** "Why *did* this happen?" **LONG PAUSE...** (SLOWLY) "And why *DOES* this happen?"... **LONG PAUSE...**

I know that eventually most of the details will come out! Perhaps we'll understand **chronologically** what **occurred...** might even get a picture of what **psychologically** went **wrong...** but as for the deeper explanation... the one we all **really want** **PAUSE...** I'm not sure we're going to get it...

PAUSE... "(3) Why do these terrible things happen God?" "What is it in us human beings; that makes us so capable of these evil acts?"... "**Why do you tolerate this?**"... Allow evil to prosper... all this bad/broken seed to grow in your garden? **LONG PAUSE...**

PAUSE... How will this be explained to that **one year old baby** when she's an adult? **PAUSE...**

To a questioning humanity... To people who wonder why **God lets life play out this way...** Jesus speaks this mysterious parable... **[(4) READ MT 13:24-30]**

Yeah... parables don't explain things the way we want them too... **PAUSE...** and this one does not give us the answer to our "**Why?**" question... Sure it says, "**(5)Some enemy did this...**" (& I believe this is true... There are dark forces at work in this world... evil is personified... and sin takes on a life of its own...) **PAUSE...** But for God to put the **blame on an enemy** when God made all things... & is all powerful... & **good** **PAUSE...** Well, it **just doesn't explain it does it?**

[(6) Back in Seminary 30 [theodicies] all fell short!] I've learned I **cannot know the mind of God...** that "**his ways are not my ways...**" **PAUSE...** at times I've gotten glimpses of 'his ways'... enough to hold on... or to **keep on trusting in** even when I don't understand...

But the bottom line is I can't see the **whole picture**, I do not know **beginning** from **end...** none of us do... **LONG PAUSE...**"God lets evil grow along side of good"

PAUSE... "(7) The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?' "He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time.'

Good and evil **together...** not just **good** here and **evil** here (**separate entities**)... but they're **intertwined** at the roots... so intertwined cannot uproot one without uprooting the other... **PAUSE...** And that's true isn't it?

You've seen that in your own heart right? **LONG PAUSE...** capable of contemplating both **incredible good** and **unthinkable evil...** saying **beautiful things**

and **really ugly** things... those things you think some times... thoughts no one knows about!

And it's all intertwined... in our **world** and in our **hearts**.

Sorry... I have to quote S again "(8) If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them! But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?"

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

God isn't... he's not willing to destroy evil right now... knowing good harvest would be pulled up as well...

PAUSE... This '(9) intertwinedness' of good and evil is making me wonder... the fact that evil is so close... **intimately co-exists... inextricably woven... PAUSE**

It's like the tightness of the knot reinforces the severity of the problem... we **desperately need God...** we just can't **undo this ourselves** can't fix our problem... [BOWL w/INK ILL] ... Fix that will you?... **PAUSE...**

We need help... LONG PAUSE... can you imagine this water solving its inky dilemma... wheat trying to de-weed itself?... **PAUSE...** we need an expert **chemist...** a wise **farmer...** **PAUSE...** "(10) RD 2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Another thing this **intertwinedness** leads me to ask "Does the presence of evil – even though its totally wrong – allow for the **good to develop** in a way that it never could apart from the pain and struggle"

The concept isn't new - idea that **struggles strengthen** us... suffering makes us **wiser**, more **sensitive**, more **real...** but when it's **in us, close**, intertwined **does this at a very deep level... deeper than we know!... mysterious place... PAUSE...** [(11) PLANTS ADAPT]

"(12) That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I

am strong." v10 humans adapt by abiding more deeply in God... grafting selves into Christ... his strength!!

PAUSE... it's like the **intractability of the problem** makes the miracle of **his solution** **all the more amazing...** **PAUSE...** His renewal goes very deep! Every **fibre of being** re-deemed... **every scar... wound... perversion... short fall... all of it!!...** as deeply as sin has invaded more deeply love **heal [Jesus' tone in speaking** of the 'things will be made right' harvest time justice!... tears?... eye contact?...]

PAUSE... **Another truth** that strikes me in Jesus' parable was the farmer's (13) **patient wisdom...** "just wait til harvest we'll deal with the weeds then..."

PAUSE... **God knows that evil's time is only for a time...** God knows that a person's lifetime is like this (**SNAP** finger) compared to an eternity with him...

O knows there is a **larger good at play**(bigger justice) one that will **swallow up** all of this ever present evil...

PAUSE... O knows about the harvest... **LONG PAUSE [RETROSPECTIVE point... heaven biggest!]**

This is one of the **few parables Jesus explains** [(14) **READ MT 13:36-43]** **PAUSE...**

Good and evil **within** each of us... yes, it's true... But Jesus also speaks here of a good and evil **among** us that the problem of evil in us can take over... go past a tipping point... that we can let that happen... **PAUSE**

[Barb discovered Lall's on our books... while back] I know its not all up to us... to me... but I asked, "Did I do all that I could to love this family?... To speak Gods truth into their life?" **PAUSE...**

All of a sudden the urgency of what we do here was HUGE... of how **wheaty or weedy** my life is... of what your life is!!... of how we're choosing to act... The Q of "Who's wisdom are we depending on... what salvation am I staking my life on?"

"(15) Are you listening to this? Really listening?"

(16) READ Isaiah 35

"(3) God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.

"The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?'

28"He answered, 'Some enemy did this.'

"The farmhands asked, 'Should we weed out the thistles?'

29-30"He said, 'No, if you weed the thistles, you'll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I'll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.'"

2 COR "To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."

Jesus dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, "Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field."

So he explained. "The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

"The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.

"Are you listening to this? Really listening?"