

The world as I find it...

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This can be no general statement. It is specific to *me* and to *my* world.

Everything I see is filtered through my brain, my past, by upbringing, my fears, my hopes. I cannot speak for the Turkish earthquake survivor, the woman in Libya, or the drug addict in San Bernardino.

And I can only talk about my world: my world as a wife, a mother of 3 children, a physician who sees elderly people with degenerative diseases. My world has been influenced to some degree by the books I've read, the news I watch, the friends I've spent time with. Most importantly, perhaps, the world as I find it has been influenced by my recent study of the Bible and the understanding that Almighty God came into the womb of one of his own creatures, lived the life of a Servant and died the death of a common criminal – and he did this to heal this world.

So what about the world as I find it:

I find it perplexing! I see two sides. I see “good” and it's personified in Jesus' life and his statements. It's an “overwhelming” kind of good – almost too good to be realistic in today's world... the kind of good that doesn't make sense (for turning the other cheek doesn't make sense in this world). But it's beautiful, desirable and perfect!

I also see the opposite – the destructive side of an enemy: selfishness, hunger for power, greed, deception, lies, and brutal force. This one seems overwhelming, the main stream of history. It is everywhere, obvious as well as subtle. I see it in history books, the news, people I've met, and sadly, partly also in myself.

And I see a war between the two sides. We're told that there's an alleged winner – Jesus Christ – but I do not yet see an actual winner in the world as I find it.

I find the world very busy, planned out to the minute, too preoccupied to recognize the issues in the battle, the nature of the contenders, and unclear to what's at stake (that is the desolation of humanity). I see an absence of understanding of what constitutes “true good” - the Jesus-kind-of-good.

I see a lack, a gaping hole. It can only be filled by community, a community of human beings who take the state of our world seriously enough to go all the way.... as Jesus went all the way. How else can people know God today? How else can they know what “good” really means?