

Thoughts on Meal with a Theme

by Christian Mordh

Discussions at our last meal with a theme focused on two pamphlets. The first was “Quaker Peace Testimony in Times of Terrorism” by Robert Griswold and the second pamphlet was “Friends' Struggles Through the Years” by Ron Mock. The following are my thoughts about points made in these two pamphlets.

“The lie that War brings Peace” was very eye opening for me because I held a belief that war was needed to correct aggressive dictators, however war does not bring peace it only brings a pause until the next war.

“When a seemingly irrational behavior persists in a group, the question has to be raised, Who in the group benefits from this craziness.” The US military expenditures is irrational behavior. Who benefits from this crazy behavior? Military contractors, oil cartels, power hungry politicians, etc.

“Non-violence as an ideology is not strong enough to defeat the ideology of violence and intimidation. “ What do I know about peace that is manifesting in my own life? When I experience peace in my heart it is evident to my loved ones and my community. Internal peace is unconquerable by any outside circumstances.

In order to walk Christ's path of peace I need to ask, Am I willing to suffer?

“God is loving even toward our enemies. God is omnipotent so will never run out of options to meet our needs. To kill is to despair either of God's love or God's omnipotence and is not consistent with faith in the God we attend to in our worship, prayer and action.” This statement hits me between the eyes. I can say I trust God, but when someone tries to hurt me or my loved ones, will I depend on God and not depend on my ability to defeat the attacker? Another thought I had was what if a country was threatened by another country and the leaders and people got together and prayed and ask God what we should do, then waited for the answer?

“Jesus' Dilemma” When Jesus was tempted by Satan, Satan offered Jesus an opportunity to set up a Kingdom on earth with Satan's help. This was not God's plan. Jesus submitted to God's plan which included Jesus' suffering and dying on the cross. God's plan also included the plan to leave the establishment of the kingdom of God to a group of feckless disciples. No shortcuts were added to bypass human freewill. He arranged things so that we have to depend on the free will decisions of millions of people everyday of their lives to choose peace or not. Our job is to choose to see the God in every person and allow others to choose to copy our examples of love and peace or die trying. I so enjoy these discussions. I do feel a part of this community and enjoy the changes in my heart based on our readings and discussions.