My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

There is nothing wrong with a peaceful protest demonstration. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights guarantee this. However, when protests and demonstrations become violent – when they wreak havoc and destruction in our neighborhoods – then something is clearly wrong!

The human race has, at best, a slowly developing moral consciousness. It takes years, centuries, even millennia for us to become aware of a higher morality and to make moral changes. The very best of people – even the saints themselves are, often, only a step above the surrounding, cultural moral consciousness. And then, they are, likely, disdained and persecuted for the moral changes that they champion.

Although we know and understand that any kind of slavery is wrong – it is noteworthy that Jesus made no recorded statement about slavery. St. Paul urged fair and kind treatment of slaves – and obedience on the part of slaves, themselves. Thus, much of the recent iconoclasm of our statues forgets that we are all flawed – including our heroes. Moreover, those heroes of the past were not far-removed from the moral consciousness of their times!

Unfortunately, our current violent protesters are even a step below the moral consciousness of the American people. Although many are probably college-educated, they have no developed moral sensitivity – They have no true knowledge of history – They have no respect for truth or the law!

Fortunately, the scriptures for today provide us with many insights into the current unrest that is afflicting our nation. The Book of Wisdom was written for that remnant of the Chosen People in Alexandria, Egypt. They were surrounded by pagan Greek culture and immorality – as well as new scientific discoveries.
Thus it was, that God told them to stay calm and to remain faithful. The Lord God knows everything. He is above everything. He is eminently fair. He is all-powerful and just. But He is also merciful and kind. He understands and forgives human weakness.

For our part, we must remain faithful. We must not be rash – We must not behave irresponsibly. For we will always pay a price for our misdeeds. And, perhaps most importantly of all – if we would be just, we must be kind. This is what those present day iconoclasts and anarchists never learned or fail to understand.

Perhaps, there are many believers who wonder why God does not intervene. Why is God seemingly so distant from the tragedies that afflict our nation and our world today? The Gospel of Matthew can answer these questions for us in the parable of the wheat and the weeds.

God doesn’t intervene in human affairs when the time is not right. Perhaps, it is to test our faithfulness – Perhaps, it is to bring out the best in us – Perhaps, it is to give us more time – time to reflect, to grasp new truths, to arrive at a higher consciousness, and, then, repent. Only at God’s harvest time will the eternal separation of good from evil take place. Therefore, for our part, we must persevere and endure!

Finally, St. Paul gives us great encouragement – especially in our prayers – in his Letter to the Romans. The Holy Spirit always comes to aid us in all of our weakness. We don’t even have to worry about how to pray in these terribly discouraging times – Because the Holy Spirit will pray for us and on behalf of us!

In fact, the Holy Spirit will inspire us in our prayer as well as in our daily lives. That Spirit will teach us God’s ways and God’s truth. That Spirit – which is the very life-force of God – will bring us that same life. That Spirit will enable us to live faithfully – despite the chaos of the culture and the moral degeneracy which surrounds us.

And so, Brothers and Sisters, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide us – Let us be faithful in our prayer life – Let us be patient with God’s unfolding plan and timeline – And may our justice always be tempered with kindness!

Amen.

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