

Blessed Are The Peacemakers

By Larry Caballero,
Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

Now that all of our Christmas presents have been opened, and maybe a few have been returned to the stores, we can begin to get back to normal. Yet we shouldn't forget the true meaning of the holiday we celebrate.

Although most of us think of Santa, presents and trees, we should not forget that a very special person was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. All faiths know of Jesus, and whether they believe he is the Savior or not, all religions agree he was an important figure in world history.

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I wonder what he would say if he chose to be visible to us and to communicate his observations of today's world. I often think of the Sermon of the Mount when Jesus spoke to his flock about how blessed are the poor, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful and the pure in heart.

Lastly, he spoke of the peacemakers, "for they shall be called the children of God." I don't think he would have said that about those who start an unjust war, and then they proceed to mismanage it. He spoke of life as being sacred, not to be lost on a battlefield on false pretenses.

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I think we all would be more opposed to the war if it were really affecting our lives. For most of us, we hardly even think about it until we watch the news on TV or we read about it in the newspaper. Otherwise, the war doesn't have much of an impact on us, and it's easy to forget about it as we go on with our daily lives.

Yet there are lots of people suffering from this war, whether it's the American mother who learns that her child is dead or maimed, or whether it's the Iraqi mother. And yet there are still millions of Americans who believe that Iraq was responsible for 9/11 when all government reports indicate that Iraq had little to do with the attacks.

I wonder what Jesus would say about corporate greed or tax cuts for the very rich when millions of Americans have no health care. Well, if it's any comfort for the poor, Jesus said: "theirs is the kingdom of heaven." The only problem, of course, is they have to die first to get there. Meanwhile, they have to suffer the hardships that go along with being part of the working poor in America.

Jesus said that the merciful are blessed and shall obtain mercy, but he didn't specify what will happen to those who show little mercy for the downtrodden. I'm sure God will be merciful — and just.

So, as we prepare for the new year, let's pray that we can live up to the teachings of Jesus, no matter what our religion may be, so that we can make the world a better place than we found it. A world that Jesus would be proud and pleased to call his own.

Text of Article

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Larry Caballero
Newsletter Editor, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

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Although most of us think of Santa, presents, and trees, we should not forget that a very special person was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. All faiths know of Jesus, and whether they believe he is the Savior or not, all religions agree he was an important figure in world history.

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