

Something to Pray About

June 2013 – Cindy Sears

“Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”

—old African-American spiritual

I Was There

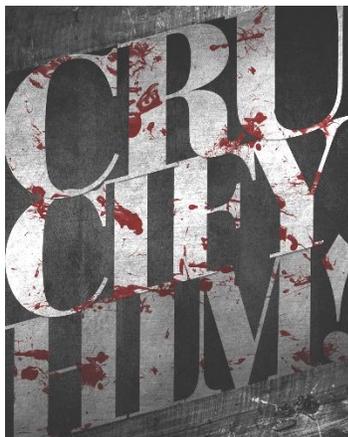
Recently, I was reminded that there are still people out there who try to twist God’s word to prove that “white” people are superior to “black” people and Jews and the Chinese and on and on. This caused me to remember an incident that happened at the Granite Falls Library decades ago when I worked there as a library clerk. A couple came in asking for books on Hitler, and I led them to that section. The woman picked up one of the biographies and said, “I think Hitler was one of the greatest men who ever lived!”

I must have gotten a look of horror on my face, because she continued with an explanation, saying that, “The Jews are the cause of the ruination of the world, you know.”

I replied (or should I say, God’s Holy Spirit replied), “My Lord was a Jew.”

She then said, “The Jews killed our Lord, you know.”

To which my rejoinder was, “The Jews and the Roman Empire—and if they hadn’t done it, someone else would have; because my Lord came to die for my sins.”



The conversation ended at that point, but remembering that instance opened my eyes to a greater truth. Not long ago, we were discussing the death of Jesus in our Sunday school class, and one person said that she was not at all certain that she would not have been one of those people in the crowd yelling, “crucify him,” if she had been there that day.

This past week, I suddenly realized that I was there that day, and I did yell, “Crucify him!” How can that be?

In my reading about God and his omnipresence, and reading the book “Mere Christianity” by C. S. Lewis and his explanation of God as an eternal being, who is not “time-bound;” I saw God as living every moment in the NOW. There is no past or future—only the present to God. So, whenever I defy God, I am literally (not metaphorically) standing in the crowd on the day Jesus was condemned and screaming, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” And I also stand beneath the cross, mocking him (See Luke 23:21, 35-37).

But Jesus, bloodied and in pain (both physical and spiritual pain I will never know), looks down from that cross and says, “Father, forgive [her], for [she] does not know what [she] is doing” (See Luke 23:34).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).

Through the grace of God, I believe. Through the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, I am no longer condemned. “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already...” (See John 3:18). “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:1).

Please, Lord, help me to stop yelling, “Crucify him!” as I live out this life you have so graciously given to me. Amen.