

JUSTICE AND PEACE
AND THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION



Recently, Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, writer, teacher, political activist, Nobel Laureate and a moral voice, died. I was impressed by an interview that Professor Wiesel had with Oprah Winfrey a few years ago. For a man who had faced the worst of humanity and lived to witness to what he had seen and experienced, Wiesel exhibited a calm and deeply committed demeanor. In his calmness, however, he exuded a passion to remember the horrors, not for their own sake, but for the lessons that could be learned for the future of human kind.

It is said that Professor Wiesel began to write about his experiences through the encouragement of a devout Christian who became a close friend. Wiesel wrote about 57 books and received the Nobel Peace Prize for speaking out against violence, repression, racism and for his untiring and practical work for peace.

Let us listen to some of his words:

- Why the seduction of evil? Will the world ever learn? Will the individual/you ever learn?
- Hurting one person, hurts all of humanity.
- I still believe in man, despite man.
- I will not be alone; they (his deceased family) are with me.
- Whatever you do in life, think higher and feel deeper.
- We need to be a conscience for the world.
- Passiveness and indifference are worse than hatred.
- The opposite of love is not hatred but indifference.
- To listen to a witness is to become a witness.
- Every moment is a new beginning.
- Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant.
- If there is one person on this planet who is lonely...than I am with him or her.

As I write this, the news is filled with more horrific events. I echo Elie Wiesel's words. When will we learn to work together to overcome the insanity of evil?

Not wanting to give in to discouragement or to feel overwhelmed by global events, what one loving act can I do today to overcome evil with Jesus' redeeming love?

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