

"The struggle against violent power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

Holy Week and the memory of the Passion of Jesus should again and again each year restore for us the shocking revelatory power of the Nonviolent Jesus and of His Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies. But does it? We know from our own experience of Church that it is not only possible, but normal, for Christians to emerge *en masse* from the various and sundries Holy Week experiences created and offered by just about all of the Christian Churches and return to supporting, justifying, ennobling and participating in violence as usual, e.g. ROTC, the military, military training, military chaplaincy, domination institutional politics, king-of-the-hill, *libido domanandi*, politics, X-box military and civilian homicide games, etc.

In other words the Holy Week liturgies, which supposedly are rooted in the gospel memory of historical events of that week, that is, Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection two thousand ago, are today rituals of liturgical ethical amnesia. Regarding the rightness, the power and the wisdom of the Way of Nonviolent Love of friends and enemies which Jesus faithfully lived as the Will of God unto His torturous murder by crucifixion at the hands of the local violent rulers of the religious and political institutions of His time and place, little, if anything is communicated. Like most Eucharistic Prayers in most Churches and like the Nicene Creed itself, the ethical implications and Divine imperatives of Jesus' Passion and Death and Resurrection are de-emphasized to the point of non-existence in the minds of most who attend these Passion Week liturgies—regardless of the violence justifying Church to which they belong.

While there is certainly nothing wrong with spending time conjecturing about the abstract metaphysical and mystical content of Passion Week, the concrete historical fact that Jesus' chose to lived the Way of Nonviolent Love of all under all circumstances—even the most horrible—is an essential, non-negotiable truth at the very heart of the Gospel and hence of the redemptive process in and through and with Jesus. For what does it mean, "*If you wish to follow me, you must pick up your cross daily,*" or "*I give you a new commandment, love one another as I have loved you,*" if the Way Jesus lived the "Way of the Cross," and the Way He loved His betrayers and murderers, His executioners and co-victims of execution His friends and even lethal enemies, during His Passion, is left out of the essential content of "*pick up your cross daily,*" and "*love one another as I have love you*"?

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Friends,

Attached is a meditative Stations of the Cross of Nonviolent Love that might be helpful to you during this Holy Week—and after. (<http://www.emmanuelcharlesmccarthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Stations-of-the-Cross-03a.pdf>)

An audio version of these Station of the Cross can be found on either website below and also can be downloaded from <http://www.emmanuelcharlesmccarthy.org/stations-of-the-cross-of-nonviolent-love-2/> .

A booklet containing these meditations on the Way of the Cross can be received without cost from <http://www.emmanuelcharlesmccarthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Stations-of-the-Cross-03a.pdf> or from Bob Aroian at raroian@charter.net or +1 978-355-2860.

Also attached is a short addition that should be part of the Eucharistic Prayer. It is presented here for clarification of thought regarding Passion Week.

<http://www.emmanuelcharlesmccarthy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/N-V-Eucharist-Anamnesis-Supplement.pdf>

Have a truly holy Holy Week.

-Emmanuel Charles McCarthy