

IS THIS WORLD PERFECT?

A lot a men like to watch Chinese karate movies or movies about the Japanese Samurai. The Karate Kid was a popular movie and Bruce Lee became famous before his death in China. On YouTube, they show the traditional way that Samurai swords are made. It takes many hours of hand forging, heat treating, hand polishing and sharpened men like to admire them. They are a labor of love and a work of beauty. But they were made in the time of the Samurai for cutting and wounding and killing other people. If you were the Samurai who owned it then it would be an object of beauty but if you were the person suffering at the hands of the Samurai it was an instrument of terror and suffering and death; something that was bad and evil.

The Last Judgment (Matthew 25; 31- 45) tells how some people will go to heaven because they came to the aid of others who were in need and some will go to hell because they did not help others by not feeding the hungry, nor giving water to the thirsty, nor comforting the sick, nor visiting the imprisoned nor helping the homeless. Jesus said whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do it for me and what you fail to do for others you fail to do it for Jesus.

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth (John 9:1-7). His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see.*

The man born blind could look like something bad from our human point of view; from God's point of view it can be something good. If I were hungry it would be bad from my point of view but somebody could give me food and gain treasure in heaven and so it could be something good from God's point of view. If this world were perfect who would be looking for heaven? How could you do good deeds for others if nobody ever needed help? A person suffering with cancer might do their purgatory here on earth before they die and when they die they get to go straight to heaven. When they get to heaven and learn that they did not suffer in purgatory because they suffered on earth they would see it as a blessing.

This imperfect world gives us opportunities to do good for others and thus choose Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Jesus told us if we want to be his disciple take up your cross and follow me. So this world from our point of view is imperfect but if we see it from heaven we could say it is perfect because it does what God wants it accomplish. Saint Paul tells us if a person will not work he should not eat. Didache is a book written by the Apostles as an instruction to the Christians in the first century. There are some people who do not want to work and you might see them as professional beggars. They ask can you spare some change, or they have a sign that says homeless or hungry and with work for food. But they won't work for food, they just want to sponge off you and your hard work. Didache tells us we do not have to give them anything. There are a few men that hang around the doughnut shop and near the ATM machines at Bank of America that are really just scamming others. They don't want to have to work at a job.

In fact, when we were with you, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

By Fr. William Ruther