

The Helplessness of God – the Interplay of Divine Design & Free Will

I. God Entrusts His Story to Us

Events at Newtown, Connecticut. And the mystery of human free-will.

Robbie Parker, 30, paid a glowing tribute to his "beautiful", "loving" and "incredible" daughter in an emotional address outside the family home during which he often struggled to speak.

"As the deep pain begins to settle into our hearts, we find comfort reflecting on the incredible person that Emilie was and how many lives she was able to touch in her short time on earth," he said.

He offered his "love and support" to the family of the 20-year-old loner who shot dead 20 young children and six adults in Friday's massacre...

"I would really like to offer our deepest condolences to all the families that were affected by this shooting,"

"It's a horrific tragedy and we want everybody to know that our hearts and our prayers go out to them. This includes the family of the shooter. I can't imagine how hard it this experience must be for you and I want you to know that our love and support goes out to you as well."

He continued: "The person that chose to act in this way was acting with a God-given gift of his own free agency. That free agency is given to all for each ...to ... choose to do whatever we want and God won't take that away from us.

Emilie was the oldest of three daughters of Mr Parker and his wife Alissa. They only moved to Newtown eight months ago ... when he got a new job as a physician's assistant in the newborn emergency care unit at Danbury hospital...

"Emilie was bright creative and very loving," he said. "She was beautiful. She was blond. She was always smiling.

"She was the type of person who just lit up the room. She always had a kind word to say about anybody. She's an incredible person and I am blessed to be her dad."

He described how little Emilie was a serial maker of cards and "always carried around her markers and pencils" to make notes for anyone who was looking sad.

Asked how the couple would deal with their loss, he said: "I don't know how to get through it. The best thing I can do is to help other people."

"My hope in life is the number one thing that people say is that **I was a great dad.**"

STOP AND PRAY

His Story — Speaking to us “In” Son language

The **REAL STORY of Christmas** is that the birth of Jesus is the appearance of God himself in the flesh – as a **BABY**.

He became one of us, present within his creation as a creature ... **to experience our suffering to redeem us with His own...**to **reveal God to us**. In Jesus we see who God is, how he behaves, and how he relates to people. We see God when we see Jesus.

He 1:1 NIV In the past God spoke to our forefathers.. **2** but in these last days he has **spoken to us by his Son**,... **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and **the exact representation of his being**¹.

He became one of us to **RESTORE** the Image

To repaint the portrait...

¹ NKJ the express image of His person ESV exact imprint of his nature

II. The Door of Salvation must Swing Open on Human Hinges

A. The Squeaky Hinge *GABRIEL'S 1ST MISSION:*

[Luke 1:5 NIV](#) In the time of **Herod** king of Judea there was a priest ...[18](#) Zechariah asked the angel, "**How can I be sure of this?** I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."

Disappointment had closed his heart!

B. The Graceful Hinge *GABRIEL'S 2ND MISSION:*

In the world of Caesar's Imperial Power, **no one was less threatening** than a teenage girl in a backwater village.

[Luke 1:26 NIV](#) In the sixth month, God **sent** the **angel Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

[34](#) "**How will this be,**" Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

[37](#) For **nothing is impossible with God.**"

[38](#) "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "**May it be to me as you have said.**" Then the angel left her.

AND SO... in her womb and later in her arms she held what the world cannot contain.

[John 2:5](#) "**Whatever He says to you, do it.**"

Portable Encounter Zone:

[Luke 1:41](#) When Elizabeth **heard** Mary's greeting, **the baby leaped in her womb**, and Elizabeth was **filled** with the **Holy Spirit**...[44](#) As soon as the **sound** of your greeting reached my ears, the **baby in my womb leaped for joy.** [45](#) Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

C. The Dreaming Hinge

Matt 1:18 NIV This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was **found to be with child** through the Holy Spirit. **19** Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to **divorce** her quietly. (**Deut. 24:1**)

Cultural norms ... accuse her and she would die along with the one in her womb.

Put her away quietly, and the shame would be on Joseph.

20 But after he had **considered** this, an angel of the Lord **appeared to him in a dream** and said, “Joseph son of David, **do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife**, because what is **conceived** in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and **you are to give him the name Jesus**, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him **Immanuel**” — which means, “God with us.”

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. **25** But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And **he gave him the name** Jesus.

Take her and they would both share the shame and the miracle!

Adopting God!!!

III. The Mystery of Free Will within Divine Design – A star, dreams, and massacres

Luke 2:1 NIV In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

Antony & Lepidus

Raising the taxes (repositions Joseph & Mary to Bethlehem

Pax Romana

Matt 2:1 NIV After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of **King Herod**, **Magi from the east** came to Jerusalem **2** and asked, “Where is the one who has been born **king of the Jews**? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.”

Matt 2:8 NIV He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and **make a careful search for the child**. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

Herod -- killed was paranoid. He had killed his father-in-law, several of his ten wives, and two of his sons. At his death, ordered many prominent Jews in the Hippodrome

Matt 2:10 NKJ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. **11** And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and **worshipped** Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 Then, being divinely **warned in a dream** that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

God as a BABY... helpless and in need of protection

Matt 2:13 NIV When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "**take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt.** Stay there until I tell you, for **Herod is going to search for the child** to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother **during the night** and left for Egypt, **(HEAR & NOW!)**

Matt 2:16 NIV When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he **gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under**, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. **17** Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18** "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Conclusion: God PUTS HIMSELF in need of human vessels, partners, a community.

Ministry: Opening the Dream Doors **(Swing Me!)**

HE GIVES HIMSELF TO US AND WAITS FOR US TO GIVE OURSELVES TO HIM!

FATE or HOPE? Which possesses us?

Open to the most impossible possibilities

Fill us with YOUR INFINITE LOVE!