

## **Jesus Lives in our Mess!**

Life is certainly messy! One moment Rep. Gabrielle Gifford of Arizona is meeting with some of her constituents at a shopping center. The next moment 6 people are killed and 13 others are shot, including Representative Mrs. Gifford. Meanwhile, the shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, 22, is in custody awaiting his fate as his family and the families of those wounded and killed try to come to grips with the horror and insanity. The pain is so far reaching many of you have been praying about this situation even as congress creates legislation to prevent incidents like this in the future.

As bleak as this situation is and looks, there is a reason for hope!

How do we all KNOW, down to our toenails, how dark this kind of senseless killing and wounding is?

As the Spirit speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah 9:2, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined." We know what darkness is because we are so immersed in The Light.

How are we to get encouragement from a nebulous concept like knowing we're in "the Light"?

That is why I wrote "The Light". The Spirit is not speaking to us of something nebulous in our mess, but speaking in our preferred language of Persons in Relationship. That is why the Spirit inspired the Psalmist to write in Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Because The Light is actually the Lord Jesus Christ Who created and sustains us all, we can begin to have hope that even as it is persons praying together and supporting one another through tragedy in which we find love and help, it is in the Person of the Lord Jesus that the relational Love of the Father, Son and Spirit is being shared with us and bringing consolation, redemption and healing.

Are you beginning to get a little more encouraged? Let me tell you more!

Because Jesus is Fully Man and Fully God, we can begin to imagine how he might as God help us through this in our actual humanity. God in Christ has not stood apart from our humanity and suffering but has fully embraced it. He has put it to death in his death. He has raised it anew forever. He has sent the Holy Spirit to aid us in embracing him and this truth about ourselves in him. Therefore, as the Spirit says through Paul in 1 Cor 1:10, "Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose."

Finally...the Last Word!

Because of Who Jesus is, Light dawns even in the shadow and region of death! Matt 4:15-16. Therefore we can think differently and positively in Jesus Christ about the negative things, see them redeemed in him and share this truth about him with others! Matt 4:17-19. This is the Good News of the kingdom by which every disease and every sickness among the people is and will be cured. Matt 4:23!

*~ Timothy Brassell*