

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Nov 8, 2020 at 9:30 AM

Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA – **with a live audience**

Pastor: Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "Savage Jesus revisited – Use Your Inside Voice (quiet whispers from our own pulpit) – Real power does not have to shout - Jesus died also to eliminate our cynical spirit – Too much Knowledge can block wisdom – Cynicism is Counterfeit Wisdom – Know and Talk where you come from – Begin with Amen – Listening to God's whisper – If You know this, proclaim it with your outside voice."

Elevation Worship:

- "Great Jehovah"
- My Testimony – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx-hbwQwOAA>
- Come thou Fount of Every Blessing - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPKpkrqBwNs>
- Authority - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sX1xXzAO0E>
- Rattle – This is How I fight My Battles – I my look I am surrounded but I surrounded by you.

Scripture for this week:

- **Mark 3:20 to 31:** *Jesus Accused by His Family and by Teachers of the Law – “20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.” 22 And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.” 23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. 26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. 27 In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. 28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.” 30 He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.” 31 Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. **Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.” 33 “Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked. 34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”***
- **Mathew 12:25:** <sup>25</sup> Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- John 1: “1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light

shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **1 John 4:** 4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.
- **1 Peter 2:9:** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- John 11: 33 – 43

Pastor: Steven Furtick - Sermon Title: "Savage Jesus revisited – Use Your Inside Voice (quiet whispers from our own pulpit) – Real power does not have to shout - Jesus died also to eliminate our cynical spirit – Too much Knowledge can block wisdom – Cynicism is Counterfeit Wisdom – Know and Talk where you come from – Begin with Amen – Listening to God's whisper – If You know this, proclaim it with your outside voice."

- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone? – See [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc).
- Interested in leading an eGroup? See: [www.elevationchurch.cc](http://www.elevationchurch.cc).
- After we elect, we can now reflect - Thursday - Reflect Night on Nov. 12, 2020 – A night for the women of Elevation Church – the event will be broadcasted live. [www.elevationchurch.org/reflect](http://www.elevationchurch.org/reflect) – See Psalm 34: *"1 Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. 3 Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together."*
- Nov. 13, 2020 – a new Kids album from Elevation Worship – launching this Friday.
- **Here comes church:**
  - Jake Bell (On-line eKidz Director) launching eKidz online during the COVID pandemic and profile of their daughter Daniela. See Gal 3:26: 26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of

God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

- A shout out to all of the international watch parties all over the world.
- Over 21,000 people completed the four-week Phil study.
- In response to a super typhoon in the Philippine Island, Convoy of Hope was activated to provide assistance. Elevation Church total giving to Convoy of Hope > \$1M.
- There are now 1,496 eGroups and 23 international watch parties.
- Prayer #1: Pastor Furtick's opening prayer: "Jesus Chris is Lord - This is How I fight My Battles – I may look I am surrounded - but I surrounded by you – I don't know how to do much – I don't know how to cook – but I know who to worship – and now one can worship for you – and we have been finding it out this year – we need to have our own worship team inside of ourselves – and know that God is fighting for your right now - and some of us need to repent because we have been watching the poles and we have not been watching the throne of God – The word of the Lord is eternal, powerful and everlasting – and let's just admit to one another that during this season, the signal to ratio has been really off – and that is why we have been off – God is here right now – God is still in control – Do you understand that you have the power to worship God where ever you are? - And I am not just talking out geographically – I am also talking about where-ever you are emotionally.
- Prayer #2 by Pastor Furtick: Whoever thought that your iPhone/Android screens could be your sanctuary? And I want to remind you of that. Right now Lord, we give you this space and this moment in time – and we pray from a place of victory – and we prey from a place of praise – and we pray from a place of confidence – and acceptance and peace – This is our inheritance – Thank you Lord – Now God we stir up a hope from the gift that is within us – Lord, we thank you for the gift of worship – If you know how to worship, raise your hands – for some this is the international sign of surrender – for believers in the redemptive powers of Jesus Christ, this is the sign of victory – We crown you King and call you Lord – And you are the great one – Thank you God for the victory – It feels good to release the tension of the week and run to his presence – What is it that you want God to do for you today? Do you need comfort? Do you need God to speak to you? Do you need confidence? Do you need God to do a mighty work in your life?
- Recap from last week from Pastor Daniels:
  - *"A Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard (theologian, poet, social critic and religious author who is widely considered to be the first existentialist philosopher - Born: May 5, 1813, Copenhagen, Denmark) said this: "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." He states that there are some things going on right now that will only make sense in your future. Just because something doesn't make sense now does not mean it does not make sense. It may mean that you have not gotten to the place, space, or season in your life where you make sense out of it – and can anyone of us pause for the cause – do some reflecting in our own life – and reflect objectively – I believe that we have to honestly admit that there were some things in our past that we did not understand – that we did not value then – that did not make sense to us then – that felt damaging then – but when we look back in retrospect, we gain respect for that season – because what I thought was destroying me was the thing that God was using to develop me – and like Paul (as we have read in Phil this month) the prison became the pathway to the palace. Kierkegaard is*

*presenting to us the principle of perspective – and what exactly does that mean? Answer: Where you sit determines what you see – and what you see determines what you do.*

- *What is a Job like season? Answer: The book of Job is in a section of the Bible called wisdom literature – books that God wants us to gain wisdom from – and God wants us to learn something from Job when we are in Job-like seasons. A Job-like season is a season of ambiguity – it is a season where you have to keep advancing but you still don't have answers – it is a season where do you want answers yet God refuses to provide them – it's a season where you have to move on without closure – it's a season where God separates and differentiates what you think you need vs what you actually need – it is Gods way of saying you think you need an answer in order to advance in a season – and while God is committed to supplying all of your needs – if you really need an answer right now God would give you one – and because God has not given you one – is in fact an indication that you have the ability to advance without it.*
- *The enemy attacks sequentially and cumulatively. Have you not felt in your life when it rains that it pours? Before the enemy tries to take us out he wears us down. The sequential way in which things happen diminish our resolve.*
- *In the mist of all this, we read that Job did not charge God with any wrongdoing.*
- *In Job 2, Satan asks for another round trying to get more access to Job. What Satan took from Job in chapter 1 wasn't what he was really after – after taking all of his stuff he was really after Jobs commitment to God.*
- *In verse 5 Job says I didn't know that I didn't know you – that I knew morals more than I knew you – I knew ethics more than I knew you – that I knew platitudes and religious scripture more than I knew You – Job says I didn't know you until I knew how much I didn't know. I was complaining about the mess but missing the miracle that I was alive to complain – the miracle of Job's survival. There's a part of Job's story where we filled two knees and worshiped. Worship is not therapy but it is therapeutic. See Psalms 8:2. "Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold." Worship is a defense mechanism – because it reminds me of those things that we need to know during the seasons of uncertainty. God is good - God is for us - and God is faithful."*

- See Mark 3: 20 to 31
- What is your inside voice? Your thought process? My inside voice would scare you – as to how critical I am of myself – even right now in this moment, there are two preachers preaching – the one your hear and the one I here – and I wonder about your inside voice – I hope you speak with good character with your inside voice and outside voice - even though you don't speak at the same volume.
- **What is clear in scripture is that Jesus was rarely driven by outside voices – think about this – it is foundational to know that Jesus died for our sins – but what I wonder about the most - when thinking about our inside voice and outside voice – are all of the voices and inputs that we consume on a daily basis. Yes we accept that Jesus died for our sins, however, do we also accept that Jesus died to free us from our cynicism? Jesus did not only die for my sins, he also died for my cynical heart.**
- Think about this for a minute – Jesus' greatest struggle in life was not the temptation to sin – He was perfect – He was blameless – He was the son of David – He was God of Gods – He was perfectly pure – No matter what he was tempted with, he know within who he was. Yet, he was constantly

dealing with the cynicism of those he came to save – not the people outside of the church – he was speaking to scribes came from Jerusalem to Capernaum and established church leadership.

- Recall that Jesus moved from where he came from to do what he had to do. Recall that he was born in Bethlehem – grew up in Nazareth – and then he moved to Capernaum.
- The leadership from Jerusalem was probably mad that they are not able to do what Jesus doing (the blind see and the sick are healed).
- **When we see someone that can do what we can't do, it is easier to criticize them than it is to be challenged by them – for many of us, cynicism becomes our strategy – it is how we deal with disappointment – if we don't get our hopes up too much, no one can bring us down – for many of us, cynicism serves us as a useful shield – to keep us from exposing ourselves to the elements of ministry – which are the essence of our faith in God.**
- These cynical scribes had a lot of knowledge however they didn't have wisdom – they had a lot of knowledge – information was their specialty – they were trained in the law and valued members of the Sanhedrin – the ruling Jewish council – based on the expert knowledge, they should have noticed that their divine council was standing right in front of them – but they criticized the very one that they spoke of – and I did not even know it.
- Most preachers like crowds – however in this section of scripture we read that the crowds were working against Jesus – and many times what the world celebrates actually gets in the way of what God wants to do in your life.
- **Everyone wants to be busy – this is just another way of saying crowded – sometimes our busyness is the very thing that prevents God from doing his work.**
- And Jesus proclaims that he has to be about his Father's business – and building his Father's kingdom – or the Kingdom of God – or the Kingdom of Heaven – all terms that were unique to Jesus – Jesus came to inaugurate that kingdom.
- In the other gospels we read about a man that was mute and blind – and Jesus dealt with both of these issues – the man that could not speak could now speak – and the scribes and church leaders could not explain what was going on – nor could they properly interpret the person in front of him that was to fulfill the law.
- **The cynicism of the scribes and church leadership is one thing – there is too much noise and too much knowledge blocking wisdom – making them think that they knew God better than God knew them – before Jesus died for our sins he had to die for their cynicism.**
- See Mathew 12:25. The scribes do not want to learn anything – they just want to protect their own turf – and they certainly did not want to experience what God came to bring – by hiding their own dysfunction by defending themselves – permit me to go deeper here: when you fascinate over other people's Instagram feeds, this is actually a tool to prevent you from thinking about you.
- The scribes had their scrolls to interpret things – what is it called when you're on your phone? Scrolling – the scribes even accused Jesus of doing the devil's work however they did not want to say it out loud (see Mathew 12:25).
- **My inside voice will tell me horrible things about others and myself. It is not PG-13 or King James scripture as to what my inside voice tells myself – it is cuss words in togues. And Jesus heard what the scribes said in their heart – we can sing all the songs and say all the words right – and we can think that Jesus came to resolve all of our external values – But, He came to deal with our**

**inside voice – the temptations you do not bring up in eGroup – the things in your mind that are not zoom or church appropriate.**

- See John 1 – The work became flesh.
- It is so silly what we try to hide from God – He knows are inside voice.
- In scripture we read his spirit interprets our groans – when we do not know what to pray – our savior can do that – God knows how to interpret events in our life – and He is good at that and we are not.
- So when Jesus make a mute man speak, the scribes conclude that must be the devil – and to blame the devil – and we do this all the time when we try to give the devil credit for something God is always trying to do. It was Jesus doing it however the scribes assigned cause to the devil.
- Write this down: the devil didn't necessarily do it – sometimes your decisions did. It is like this voice that always makes you the victim – this voice that always tries to give the devil credit.
- **Isn't it crazy that the kingdom of God was coming to the scribes however the cynicism stop them from participating in it? – Think about all of the times that God was in our midst performing the miracles that He was performing – and we missed it because of our cynical spirit. In the text of Mark 3 and Mathew 12, we see the references between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan and this is hard for us – because we embrace strategies of cynicism and call it wisdom – cynicism is counterfeit wisdom – it looks like wisdom – it looks like a fake watch – it looks like the truth but it's not the truth – it looks like righteousness but it's not righteousness – it looks like faith but it's really manipulation – when we go through life with a cynical spirit it is not the spirit of God – gospel means good news – gospel means freedom – and I need to preach this all of the time from this pulpit – what are you preaching from your pulpit today? What is your inside voice and what report will you believe today?**
- **In this passage of scripture Jesus is building a contrast between Satan and God – as well as a contrast between a strong man and a weak man – and Jesus even says that if your blasphemy the Holy Spirit you will never be forgiven – when Jesus says: anything you do will be forgiven, this is the finished work of Jesus Christ – but what not will be forgiven is a sin that you are not willing to deal with** – and that is why Jesus mentions to holy Spirit – so on one hand you have the kingdom of Satan versus the kingdom of God – and on the other hand is a division – a house divided against itself cannot stand – here Jesus is talking about eternal versus the temporal (secular, nonspiritual, worldly, profane, or material) – the eternal vs. ephemeral (transitory, transient, fleeting, passing, momentary) – the word of the Lord vs. the values of the world.
- Here is where it came to me: See Mark 3: 20.
- Everything significant in this text of Scripture happens on the inside.
- Jesus entered the house – probably Simon's house because that's where he stayed when he visited Capernaum – and they probably just got done repairing the roof because in Mark chapter 2 Jesus saved a person that was lowered through the roof by the man's friends.
- The one contrast I want to bring up that is most important is external versus internal.
- Not only is Jesus experiencing opposition from the scribes – he also experiencing opposition from his own family – in the passage everyone is thinking they are Jesus – Recall that his family was located outside the house.



- The secret of Jesus doing his father's will – is the secret of you doing the will of God – is the secret of you not going crazy during this pandemic – and what this world is going through – it is all about going to be the voices that you respond to – the voices that come from those people that surround you – what makes Jesus so strong what is that he was binding Satan by going to the house – and he could not bind Satan if he was fighting with people – so when Jesus gets to the point where the scribes are criticizing him – by saying what is in their heart (their inside voice) – or “reason of their heart” as one scripture passage says – See vs. 23 – Jesus uses his inside voice. Real power does not have to shout.
- **Jesus called them over because he knew where he came from – he knew who he was – Do you? – let's explore our inside voice – do you know where you come from? If you don't, you would be tossed in the wind not knowing which end is up – and your cynicism will restrict your wisdom – Where do you come from?** See John 1 and 1 John 4: “4 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 **You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.** 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”
- **And we need to talk like where we come from. We come from royalty - We come from strength – we come from the well - See 1 Peter 2:9: “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” I didn't come from monks corner South Carolina and I didn't come from Larry (my Dad) – I came from the Lord – I have an inheritance. Know where you come from. Anyone can describe the problem – it takes courage to declare the praises. It does not take faith to be cynical – it takes faith to contradict your circumstance with your confession – talk like where are you come from.**
- Don't talk to yourself like you are worthless – talk like Jesus Christ shed his blood for you – not how you talk to other people – how do you talk to yourself – the inside voice.
- **Paul says that we are God's workmanship created in Christ. The same authority that gave Jesus the ability to focus on his assignment is available to us today – God knows what's going on inside of your heart today – I don't but he does – before any of these layers of life that label us – we are still dear children of God – I don't have enough time today to tell you who God is – it would take the rest of my life to just provide an introduction – however I can tell you where it God is – he is on the inside.**
- See 1 John 4:5.
- **Cynicism is counterfeit strategy – the real wisdom of God is peaceful and pure – and needs more faith not less – but who are you listening to? Voices become viewpoints – we come from God but**

**we listen to the world – we come from God but we listen to the opinions of people who do not have our best interest at heart – Read again 1 John 4:4-5: “4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them.”**

- Worldly values have no place in the heart of a Christian.
- This is not about the external stuff – Jesus is telling us that there are false prophets – that speak from the viewpoint of the world – what we hear gets into our heart – what you scroll gets in your spirit – this is why you are stressed – cynicism is not wisdom it is a sickness – why would we have the spirit of God within us and still speak the language of Satan?
- **Just think about the things we say to ourselves about ourselves?**
- See 1 John 4:6 - We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”
- **While Jesus is surrounded by skeptical scribes and even the cynicism of his own family, Jesus knew where he came from – we are from God – and we need to use our inside voice to talk where we come from – the world is so loud – we are seated in heavenly places where Jesus reigns – so what are we doing down in the sewers of cynicism?**
- The real issue is not that the nation is divided – real issue is that your heart is divided – do you really trust His authority – Jesus had internal authority because he didn’t need other people to tell Him who He was.
- See Mark 3:28 – only recorded from the lips of Jesus in scripture – when a priest or prophet says something, they usually finish with “thus says the Lord.” – people would then say amen – a response and witness that confirmed the statement made by the priest or prophet.
- In Mark 3:28, Jesus says amen first.
- **Ben Witherington says this about Mark 3:28: Scripture says Amen, I tell you, amen – Jesus was free to vouch for himself – in the truth of His own word – without requiring human external testimony as to His truthfulness – we all need to learn how to say amen from within – what I mean is I want us to get into the point of our faith and get to the point of our lives where we no longer wait for humans to validate our identity – or events to validate our optimism – we want to be able to say amen to begin with – say amen if you know who you are – and you don’t need anyone else to see it for you – if you know what he spoke into your life and know what he said and you know where you come from – saying amen comes from within.**
- Bio of Ben Witherington III: American New Testament scholar - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (1977) and a Ph.D. from the Durham University in England)
- We are so consumed with the voices of others that we can’t hear Father in heaven. And then we asked God to take things away that we put in our own hearts based on what other people told us.
- Begin the week with an amen and clap your hands louder than if you were attending the Masters golf tournament.



- Jesus was not controlled by the Spirit of others – he was following the spirit of God – we came today so that we could deal with our inside voice – we have been saying amen to the worlds values – Lord help me begin my day with an amen to God – I am a child of God I need to agree with you – You say that you have me and I need to agree with you – why would we let the words of the enemy permeate a child of God – learn to say amen on the inside – come to an agreement with viewpoints and values on the inside.

Additional study notes:

Additional commentary by William Henry on Romans 8:28: *“The Spirit in the world helps; many rules and promises there are in the word for our help. The Spirit in the heart helps, dwelling in us, working in us, as a Spirit of grace and supplication, especially with respect to the infirmities we are under when we are in a suffering state, when our faith is most apt to fail; for this end the Holy Ghost was poured out. We must not sit still, and expect that the Spirit should do all; when the Spirit goes before us we must bestir ourselves. We cannot without God, and he will not without us. What help? Why, the Spirit itself makes intercession for us, dictates our requests, indites our petitions, draws up our plea for us. Christ intercedes for us in heaven, the Spirit intercedes for us in our hearts; so graciously has God provided for the encouragement of the praying remnant. The Spirit, as an enlightening Spirit, teaches us what to pray for, as a sanctifying Spirit works and excites praying graces, as a comforting Spirit silences our fears, and helps us over all our discouragements. The Holy Spirit is the spring of all our desires and breathings towards God. With groanings that cannot be uttered. The strength and fervency of those desires which the Holy Spirit works are hereby intimated.”*

**Quote from Dr. Tim Keller in his sermon “A Reason for Living – a recap of John 1”** – *“What if we found the reason for life? Why we were created? Why we were designed? And conformed to that and then honored that? - If there is a design, there is a designer. And if there is a designer, the logos has come. Not some abstract philosophical principle. It is a person. The designer has punched a hole into the world and he has descended. And you were built not to just honor some philosophical principle. But you were built to know and love this divine person. When you know him and when you serve him and you find out what he built you for, when you comply with it and submit yourself to him, you find out who you are. And you are now able to reach your potential.”*

**When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Rabbi Harold Kushner:** *“It may be that Einstein and the Book of Genesis are right. A system left to itself may evolve in the direction of randomness. On the other hand, our world may not be a system left to itself. There may in fact be creative impulses acting on it, the Spirit of God hovering over the dark waters, operating over the course of the millennia to bring order out of the chaos. It may yet come to pass that, as “Friday afternoon” of the world’s evolution ticks toward the Great Sabbath which is the End of Days, the impact of random evil will be diminished. Or it may be that God finished His work of creating eons ago, and left the rest to us. Residual chaos, chance, and mischance, things happening for no reason, will continue to be with us, the kind of evil the Milton Steinberg has called “the still un-removed scaffolding of the edifice of God’s creativity.” In that case, we will simply have to learn to live with it, sustained and comforted by the knowledge that the earthquake and the accident, are not the will of God, but represent that aspect of*

reality which stands independent of His will, and which angers and saddens God even as it angers and saddens us.”

**The Shack by William Young:** I (God) am not evil. You (humans) are the ones who embrace fear and pain and power and rights so readily in your relationships. But your choices are also not stronger than my purposes, and I will use every choice you make for the ultimate good and the most loving outcome. . . Broken humans center their lives around things that seem good to them, but that will neither fill them nor free them. Humans are addicted to power, or the illusion of security that power offers. When a disaster happens, those same people will turn against false powers they trusted. In their disappointment, they either become softened toward me or they become bolder in their independence. If you could only see how all this ends and what we will achieve without the violation of the human will – then you would understand. One day you will.”