

Nonviolence and Scripture with Matt Frizzell

Reflections

on Nonviolence and Scripture
by John Rawson

God is Calling

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Prior to Mission Conference, I had heard the name Matt Frizzell, but had never met him and knew nothing about him or his role in the Church, other than “something!” What that “something” was, I had no idea.

On the morning of Wednesday of Conference, I joined the Zoom link to the session where we would interact with Matt. (For Matt, it was Tuesday evening, and it was interesting later to see how quickly, day turned to night in Independence!)

Tuning in to Zoom, I found Matt and Malcolm in deep conversation, chatting away as old friends do. It was quickly obvious that they were old friends, enjoying a time of “catch up” and reminiscing. I did not intrude, leaving them to continue their time together.

After a few minutes, breaking off from his chat with Malcolm, I was surprised when I heard Matt say, Hello John! Great having you with us! In that moment I felt welcomed and was warmed by that greeting. It was such a lovely surprise for me and immediately, “got me onside” with what was to come.

The time came to commence the conversation of Matt’s expertise, Nonviolence and Scripture. Malcolm introduced us to his friend, where we learned a little about the man who is Matt Frizzell.

From the very outset of his remarks it was obvious that this man knew what he was talking about, practiced “what he preached” and was passionate about nonviolence and Scripture.

Using the text from Walter Wink’s work, Jesus’ Third Way, Matt led us through Jesus’ life from a perspective of Scripture that was challenging. We are encouraged to look at Scripture with “new eyes.” To see beyond the mere words, to what was the experience of a day in Jesus’ time and life.

Using examples of Jesus’ statements, Turn the other cheek.... Go the second mile.... We were gently led to an understanding of things that were then, how things

were done and different to what we experience today.

It was a delightful 2 days of challenging ministry from Matt Frizzell, and gave me pause to look at myself, where I am, and what is it that engages me in Christ’s mission? What is it that I am passionate about?

I have absolute certainty of God’s love of all people. Whoever that person may be, however they may worship, or choose not to worship. To choose to have a belief or not to have a belief, irrespective, God’s love is for all.

So, acceptance of each other, as we are and as we may become, is a paramount part of discipleship. My discipleship.

I am challenged by recent revelation. For me, sections 156 onwards of Doctrine and Covenants are among the finest words of counsel ever received from God.

Discipleship makes me lift up my eyes and fix them on the place beyond the horizon to which I am sent. It is my journey of trust in the great and marvellous work to which I am called.

Discipleship makes me listen to the voice that speaks beyond the aeons of time, for it speaks anew in every age.

Discipleship helps me with the burden of God’s tears for the Mothers and Fathers of all nations who plead for a future of hope for their children.

Discipleship demands that I focus my love on the welfare of all, for in their welfare lives mine.

Discipleship encourages me to be vulnerable to Divine grace.

Discipleship makes me a servant minister.

Have you found yourself with some extra time on your hands? Watch any of the recorded sessions from the recent mission conference available on our website now or access the additional resource material. Find all the recorded sessions here - <https://www.cofchrist.com.au/mc-2021-recorded-sessions>