

Daily Meditation Transcript 08/25/2021
Love Amid Climate Change and Vaccination Emergencies

Good morning.

In today's meditation we take up the subject of selfishness, because I was really struck that the environmental lawyer we cited two days ago says that the real problem regarding climate change isn't so much the collapses going on in the ecosystems and the oceans and the glaciers and so forth -- it's human beings.

Not just that we launched this crisis of climate change, but that our response to it is so utterly selfish. He says this is where the effort has to be put: to thaw the hearts of human beings, let us say... to thaw the hearts of human beings.

Maybe we need a warming of the human heart to combat the warming of climate, and caring for one another and for future generations --that would be a warming of the heart, wouldn't it?

But the other crisis in our midst today, that of coronavirus, and of all the people refusing to get vaccinated: clearly every day we're seeing it in the news -- hospitals being absolutely deluged by unvaccinated people.

And this too is a crisis of selfishness, isn't it? We care only for ourselves or for the small world that we live in: that even if we're afraid of getting a shot, is that it?

I mean, our country has been giving vaccinations for decades and it's worked - we don't have the crises of polio and of measles and chickenpox and diphtheria and smallpox that previous generations had to suffer through.

So it seems that the crisis has something to do with our values. And as I say, what happened to the idea that loving your neighbor as yourself is a pretty good practice for holding a society and a community together? What has happened to our value system? I think a lot of it frankly can be traced to our educational system where, it seems to me, we fail to teach values.

I'll always maintain that January 6 was a report card for our educational system: thousands of so-called adults charging like mad men, screaming things like "We want to hang our Vice President and kill the Speaker of the House."

I mean what more evidence do we need that our value system is really off-kilter?

And it was Albert Einstein who traced the lack of values to our educational system, and he said, "I abhor American education." Why? Because it emphasizes the rational so much, the rational. He says that's not where values come from!

Values come from, I would say, the heart, from the mystical brain! Einstein said, from deep feeling and from intuition, which are the same thing.

And how much education pays any attention to deep feeling or intuition, or therefore to values?
So the self is good, but selfishness is not good: it can destroy a community, it destroys the common good, and it destroys our capacity for community.

Where did the advice to love your neighbor as yourself, where did it go? What drain was it sucked down? Maybe the drain of consumerism?

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.