

DON'T FIGHT EVIL. INSTEAD, DO GOOD.

I have come to an understanding. You who have followed my words for many years know of my journey and travails. Always fighting against the dark forces arrayed against us. Doing my small part to shine light on their lies and misdeeds. But it is almost two weeks since I have stepped away from the internet, and already I have realised that the battle against evil is not the proper way.

Our task is not to fight evil. Rather, we must do our best to spread good. That is the proper and fitting way to combat the evil one. These two paths are so distant as to almost inhabit alternate worlds. By attempting to combat evil we play into his hands. We take the field on his terms, on his field even. We react to him, and to his minions. We give them credibility. Their lies become possibilities. We may triumph, or they may defeat us. Both options are open.

Satan wants us to fight him. By doing so we grow bold. We begin to have flights of fancy; we see ourselves as true warriors, worthy of great renown. Thus, we seek glory on earth, even if we believe that we are doing God's work. But in time we come to seek the approval of the world, of men. And then we are his.

Fighting evil can only generate more evil. They have the field, so let them have it. With joy. For joy is the thing that they hate the most. No, our task is not to fight evil, but to spread good. Can you understand the difference? And in that small difference, great things can grow from small seeds. But always in His name alone. It is not for our glory, but for His. Satan wants us at each other's throats, whatever the reason. Your reason can be as noble and pure as snow fallen on a virgin's kiss. But it will have been tainted with his foul breath the moment that you step foot into his world on his terms.

But when we spread good, solely for the sake of good alone, then we are immune. And we draw closer to God with each small act of faith and goodness. In this way, we are invincible.

So what does this mean on practical terms? How do we actually spread good?

Well, we start with ourselves. We go to Holy Mass every Sunday that it is available to us, we confess our sins, we receive the sacrament, (if we are able), and we are as spiritually active as we are able to be during the Mass itself. We say the Rosary every day and we study scripture and the Bible.

Then we spread good with our families. Husbands lead their families, both to navigate the perils of the world but also to grow spiritually. Wives follow, support and obey their husbands and instruct and love their many children. We look after our parents and grandparents and other relatives. We perform acts of charity for them. We find the time to do so.

And then for our neighbors and our communities. Any form of charity is in of itself an act of good. It cannot be otherwise.

Doing good does not mean interfering. It does not mean changing others, and it most certainly does not entail attempting to change the world. We do good so as to expect nothing at all in return. There is no keeping score.

Before going to bed each night, ask yourself what good you performed that day. If you cannot think of anything then tomorrow you have some catching up to do. At least, that's the position that I find myself in most days.

by Adam Piggott