

March 14, 2023

 Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT

Photo by Alan Carrillo from Unsplash

INCREDULOUS

By Julie Mussché

*“Violence is like a weed—it does not die
even in the greatest drought.”*

—SIMON WIESENTHAL

Justice not Vengeance

Reflection

During the writing of these reflections, I received several emails warning that February 25 had been named a “day of hate” by white extremist groups. Law enforcement had picked up messaging and social media by domestic violent extremists calling for “likeminded” groups to drop racist and anti-Semitic banners, place stickers and flyers, and scrawl graffiti as an action to protest the Jews.

In response to this outrageous action, faith leaders united throughout the country declaring instead a “day of resolve.” Social media participants also

responded to counter-protest the hate and vitriol being promoted by extremists.

The idea of having a day of hate is incredulous, and so I went to scripture to get a feel for the nature of the sin of hate. While not one of the seven “deadly sins” hate certainly relates to them as a synergistic source and effect—to envy, pride, and wrath, for instance. While it is ok to hate sin, hate is looked at as an act of darkness (1 John 2) and not a Godly thing. There are certainly considerable examples of hate in the Bible, like Cain and Able. However, we are instructed to love God and love one another, this is foundational. Yes, scripture can be complicated and yet, there’s not a lot of mixed messaging here.

A day of hate? Unbelievable.



For Pondering

- When and how have you encountered hate?
 - How have you brought light to such dark situations?
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Closing Prayer

YOUR LOVE

*Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!
Give me knowledge; O giver of Knowledge,
That I may be one with my Universe and Mother Earth!
O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;
That we may help all fellow souls in need!
Bless us with your Love O God.
Bless us with your Love.*

Author unknown

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