

Years ago, a high school student desperately complained how the whole world is crazy. Like, really crazy. They were right. So I said, “That is why I follow Jesus.”

This week we have seen the result of giving yourself over to anyone or anything less than God. Giving yourself over to power, fame, fortune or affection. Giving yourself over to lies. Giving yourself over to an ideology. When we give ourselves over to anything less than God, we give ourselves over to tyranny: we are no longer free.

There are aspects of God that we must be whole-heartedly in pursuit of: truth, justice, peace, unity, the common good, love of others and beauty. In these, are true freedom.

When we give ourselves over to anything less, we are accepting a Big Lie. The Big Lie will always disguise itself as one aspect of God, but it always leads to the destruction of the others and the destruction of freedom. We are not only responsible to not perpetuate the Big Lie that tyranny depends on, but we must also be responsible not to believe the Big Lie. This week, the Big Lie of tyranny was on full display and people died.

For the next year, we will be reading primarily from the Gospel of Mark on Sundays. Mark begins his gospel by telling us of the baptism of Jesus. There was

this man Jesus, and in him we experienced the absolute free flow of grace. It was like the heavens being torn open.

This grace, this love acts not like an eagle but like a dove. It brings peace and atonement; that is reconciliation between God and creation. This Jesus is the Son of God.

Peter in the Acts of the Apostles also testified to Jesus. Through Jesus, God has proclaimed peace to us. You could see it in everything that he did. He did good to everyone, even healing the sick. The prophet Isaiah told us, this is how you will be able to recognize the true servant of God: the one who brings forth justice - a justice that heals.

In the midst of a crazy world, in the midst of tyranny trying to take over, St. Mark invites us to follow Jesus. He is the Son of God who can be safely followed. He is the one who can show us the way of God.