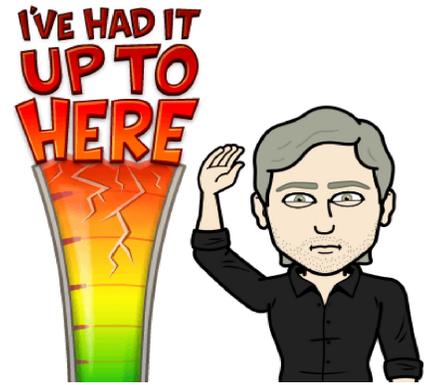


I have a nephew who is a high school hockey star. He's been skating year round since he was two years old. He's an 'A' student to boot. To me, he's a model kid. In the spirit of full disclosure, I have other nephews who I suspect I'll be bringing Communion one day at Greenhaven State Prison 😊. That aside, my brother is a great dad. For example, to this day, many times, I have seen him sit side by side with his children with his arm around them.



When my nephew was eight, his travel hockey team lost a tournament in the final game. They were blown out. They lost 10 to 2. On the one hour drive home my brother did not talk to his son despite his son trying to talk to him.

When they got home, he sent him to his room and eventually went up there

and talked to him. What annoyed my brother was he sensed his son was looking at the clock, killing time until the game ended. My brother told him, per my sister-in-law's retelling, that in the future he is to play every minute, of every game, like it's the last minute of a tied up Stanley Cup Final. My sister-in-law then asked me what I thought of my brother's reaction. I told her that knowing my brother, he delivered that message like a sledgehammer. In other words, short of perfect charity. However, to let it go. Don't baby the kid. There is a method to my brother's madness.

Occasionally, a good father lays down the law. In both of today's readings, God is fed up with His people for good reason. In the first reading, God is about to send His wrath upon His people for worshipping the golden calf. Only the intercession of Moses prevents their destruction. Jesus rips into a group of disbelieving fellow Jews in the Gospel. Their warped ideas of who the Messiah should be, their sins and their hardness of heart has made them blind to who He is. Miracles and heavenly teachings haven't had a positive impact on them, maybe a tongue lashing will do the trick.

Recently, I was telling a friend how every couple of months my dad would come home from work and everybody got a tongue lashing. Ignoring the beam in his eye, we all got called out for what we were doing wrong. Although he was far from perfect, he was really never wrong. We deserved it. In fact, some of us deserved it worse than we got it.

In these days of sensitivity training, micro-aggressions and "snowflakes" are you ok with an angry God? Do you take any responsibility for His possible anger at the world? Or is this just another example of you being victimized? *

* This is meant to be a daily Mass reflection. This is not meant to be a comprehensive theological tome on the "anger of God", human suffering, and how to parent a child. It is simply spiritual food for thought. Remember, at the end of the day, God is merciful. PRAISE THE LORD!