

## GILLIGAN vs GET SMART vs AGENT COVID-19

Sadly, it seems that this virus has also served to divide our country in many ways. I was thinking and praying about what message people need to hear these days related to this Coronavirus. There are obvious ones about faith over fear, helping others, and how we need to unselfishly come together loving others (even our “enemies”) during this crisis. But I started to contemplate our **reactions** to the political part of this, no matter what political perspective you come from. How would Jesus respond? I am often reminded of the conclusion **Billy Graham** came to later in life as he regretted some of his early political involvement which detracted from the most important thing, which is the gospel. A reporter asked him if he leaned more toward the left or the right. He responded that he knew that a bird had a left wing and a right wing but that he just cared about the bird! Simple yet profound!

I have friends from various political persuasions who are concerned that the country will be too slow to “open up” as well as others who are concerned it will “open up” too soon. Personally, I don’t think I have the knowledge or experience with pandemics to be able to know for certain so I will trust the health experts and scientists. As a follower of Christ, I especially want to trust the expert named Paul who said, “I have learned in whatever **state** I am in to be content” (Phil. 4:11). (I think Paul is referring to whether you live in a stay-at-home **state** or not. 🤔)

I have Christian friends who are frustrated by the **media’s pessimism** and how they **incessantly criticize** President Trump for his minimizing and delay in handling the Coronavirus crisis. I also have Christian friends who are concerned and frustrated by President Trump **belittling, bragging, and blaming** everyone else for what is happening. To both groups I say, *“I know you are, but what am I?”* Sorry ... I temporarily reverted back to our strategic childhood method of debating deep topics. I read something yesterday that I think applies to all of us no matter what perspective you come from. It is from a book by Ted Dekker called ***A.D. 33*** about an encounter someone had with Jesus during the storm when they were out in the boat. *“The one who sincerely follows Jesus cannot hold any grievance for any reason in the face of any storm, because to do so only exchanges one’s faith in the Father for faith in the storm. This renders one powerless to find peace!”* We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and not our earthly leaders or the Corona storm. Sometimes Jesus calms the storm, and sometimes He calms the hearts of those in the storm.

Similarly, I read a Letter to the Editor in our San Diego Union newspaper yesterday. *“The other day I said a prayer for Donald Trump. I prayed that God would give him wisdom and discernment in handling the coronavirus crisis. I prayed that God would help him to find within himself the ability to offer the American people comfort, support, and kindness. I prayed that God would help him become the president this country needs right now.*

*I am grateful for health workers and other essential workers who risk their lives every day to help us in this crisis. I am grateful for medical experts for providing informative*

*accurate information and direction and confronting the president when he is wrong. I oppose him politically and morally but on that day I choose gratitude over my anger with him."*

Kathleen Cremeans - Oceanside

Coming up next (edition) - *"Why has a loving God allowed this pandemic?"*

**CORONA? EXCERPTS FROM PSALM 91**

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you ... from the deadly *pestilence*. His faithfulness will be your shield and protection. You will not fear the terror of night ... nor the *pestilence* that stalks in the darkness, nor the *plague* that destroys at midday. "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.