

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?



The other day I found myself asking, “Where is God in this world gone mad? This was not the first time I found myself at odds with God nor the last time, I guess. I ranted and raved at all I perceived to be the injustices in the world. I was angry with this loving God who seemed to have abandoned the world.

As is my way I decided to sit and ponder what was around me. My gaze fell on the sheep in the neighbors’ paddock, and I realized that even though the sheep did not have a traditional shepherd, they weren’t abandoned, they were moved from paddock to paddock to graze, were shorn, and there were dams for them to drink from.

Yet I was still angry and frustrated with God, I had prayed, demonstrated, and worked for Peace and still the world is full of war, violence, poverty, and destruction. I looked at my own life and the mistakes and choices that had led me to suffer and wonder where God was and why God allowed this to happen. I then thought of the last words of Jesus, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” It is strange as these nine words gave me comfort; they allowed me to understand that doubt was not something to be ashamed of or fearful of, or that being angry with God was wrong. I realized if the Son of God could question, and show doubt, then so can I (we). God is not overwhelmed or surprised by our anger or questions.

Whatever pain, injustice, we have experienced or witnessed we are invited to ask the question as the author of Psalm 22, and Jesus did “Why have you abandoned me?” Yet we then draw hope from the image of the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23. It is God who walks with us and grants us the courage to continue our journey and say, “it is your will that will be done”.

In reflecting on this experience, two questions arise:

Where were the times that I felt abandoned by God and others?

Where were the times that I helped others who may have been abandoned find acceptance and love?