

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW WHY?

“...He healed many who were sick with various diseases and he cast out many demons...” (Mark 1:34)

I’m not much for “demon” talk. It’s not a common way of describing why humans do inhuman things. I suppose it’s a kind of *“the devil made me do it”* thing.

When an Orlando happens, or any of the hundreds of similar senseless taking of lives, we want to know “why did he do that?”

ISIS would be a convenient cover. Many seem to think “Muslim” says it all. Or “homophobia”. Some still think God plans everything. We wouldn’t think of demons.

Notice that Mark lists “sick” and “diseases” in the same sentence as “demons”.

In our time we might change demon possession to psychotic or sociopathic or schizophrenic or bi-polar or criminally insane. I would add brainwashed.

So what if we agree on a “why” for the mass killing in Orlando? Why does deciding on a “why” seem so important? What does “why” fix?

In my pastoral practice there were many times when I came in touch with “troubled people.” We didn’t call them sinners or sick or demon-possessed. Many were one tick away from violent behavior.

Some were in jail. Or prison (where I was spit on). Others in mental hospitals. Others in my office. Others in homes where I was called because of a marital dispute. Another man came telling of his son threatening to shoot him and his wife. Their son needed mental help but nobody would help unless his son did something harmful.

Another called that her husband had raged out of the house “off his meds,” totally out of control and she feared for her life.

In both of the above cases my first question was “have you taken away his guns?”

You can get past some “demon-filled moments” if violence can be prevented and guns don’t interfere. Bullets can be an irreversible solution to a temporary problem.

There are too many “whys” for such events. Our culture is not well. Our government is often dysfunctional...or non-functional, at least when it comes to identifying, tracking and treating of vulnerable people. To ignore them can be dangerous. We are gradually beginning to realize that it is less expensive and more productive to treat than to warehouse them in jail or prison.

The Orlando massacre is not the largest in U.S. history—only the most recent. It is no more tragic than hundreds of murders reported every year. No nation in the world matches ours in terrorizing one another. Why?
— Art Morgan, June 13, 2016

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SOME MOMENTS

A little snow remains on the Olympics.
A daily reminder of a warming planet.



Memorial Day tribute and memories with annual Forget-me-nots spread on waters for 22 this year.



Memorial Celebration for Don Payne a long-time friend, colleague and beach neighbor across Case Inlet. John Bristow and Rodney Page are two of the other five clergy colleagues at the Memorial Event. Don was 93



(Rod and Paul Pritchard were roommates at Northwest Christian University)

Grand-daughter-in-law, Sabrina, wife of Kyle Peters helped launch Say Yay on first sail of the year

