

The suffering and death of the innocent produces life's greatest tragedies. Two cars collide outside Hermann, Missouri. A tennis star announces his blood transfusion carried the AIDS virus. Unwanted babies are aborted. Parents of a four year old child encase him in cement. These tragedies just tear the heart apart.

Christianity is built upon just such a tragedy, the death of innocent Jesus. Insurrection, blasphemy, whatever charges they found him guilty of, he was innocent.

Many of us school ourselves in innocent suffering. If someone injures us we feel justified to injure them. If someone cheats us we embarrass them publicly.

What would you have done if you were Jesus? Would you spit at Judas? Hire a better lawyer? Write your friends out of your will?

Look at what Jesus did on his way to the cross: He healed a slave's ear. He comforted women who wept. He forgave his enemies. He promised paradise to a thief.

When we suffer in innocence it's fair to be angry; it's not fair to be vengeful. But it's downright Christlike to extend the compassion we long to feel.