

Source: Marjorie Sennett, 6/7/20

"I watched a video last night that I still haven't recovered from. I won't for some time. I hope I never do.

You've probably seen it by now. If not, I hope you do. It's not easy to watch. In fact, it's one of the hardest things I've ever watched.

It played out like a horrible movie scene. You know...you've watched movies before that have those unforgettable scenes in them. Scenes that provoke you to anger and sadness, to disgust and revulsion -- emotions that you didn't realize were pent up inside of you until your eyes took in something so horrid that they instinctively surface. But as you leave the movie theater, you get to soothe your troubled mind with one convenient solace: at least that wasn't real.

But this scene ... this scene in Minneapolis ... it was real.

And not only was it real, raw footage of a real live event ... it was footage we have seen replayed far too many times through the lens of a smart phone over the past decade. We don't get to walk away and say it isn't real. Nor do we get to walk away and say that the recurrence of it happening to people of color isn't real.

"Isolated events" that consistently happen cease to be isolated events.

When we watch someone made in the image of God get choked to death by another image bearer in what is supposed to be a trusted position of power and public protection -- while people witnessing the event plead for him to stop ... it should stir something within us.

It shouldn't stir up political debates filled with personal attacks and blame. It shouldn't stir up debate over what he did or didn't do. (Nothing justifies the inhumane treatment he received.) And it shouldn't stir up division.

BUT, may it stir something in us far better and fruitful...

May it stir within us lamentation, that things are not as they should be.

May it stir within us compassion, to mourn with those who mourn.

May it stir within us empathy, to feel what others feel.

May it stir within us humility, that we would listen and learn from others and their experiences.

May it stir within us honesty, that we may be willing to see things that we don't want to see -- about ourselves and about our world.

May it stir within us transparency, to confess things we have left unconfessed.

May it stir within us a true sense of justice, that all people, made in the image of God, would be treated with the dignity due them.

May it stir within us a call to action, that we would work to make our outcry an opportunity for change.

And may it stir in us the very heart of God, who in the person of Jesus Christ, emptied Himself and received upon Himself the greatest of all injustices, so that people from every tongue, tribe, and nation may be justified."