

The bombing at the finish line of the Boston Marathon provided a faint but grim echo of 9/11. Like the terrorists' attacks of 9/11 it has captured national attention like few other events. Coming just a few months after the Newton shootings, it makes the world feel like an unsafe place—especially for children.

There is bitter irony in the fact that one of the victims, Martin Richard, was committed to waging peace despite the fact he was only 8 years old. His advocacy for peace should stand as a monument to what happens in its absence. The sign he held was eerily prescient. It read, "No more hurting people." Young Martin is gone to the better place, but his sister and Mom are still *badly* fighting for their lives... And ~~the~~ father's grief, beyond words. *Injured*

How can we explain the strange operations of the human heart and mind? Who could possibly delight in the gratuitous bombing of people running or watching, a Marathon? Can behavioral science, or any science for that matter, explain what goes on in the mind of a person who would do such a thing? I have my doubts. There are a lot of crazy people in our world, and we're all a bit crazy at one time or another; but a very small percentage of people with mental illnesses try to kill innocent people.

I have four points:

1. Let's not give this ugly bombing more attention than it deserves. One politician being interviewed on CNN talked about this becoming the biggest event in Boston's history. I think not, and I hope not. In our country there were a lot more kids killed by drunk drivers the past four days than killed by terrorist bombs. On top of that, around 20,000 children starve in our world each day. I'm not sure that is greatly comforting, but it might give us a clue on where to invest our time, attention and moral indignation.

2. Let's not cave in to fear. I heard many Bostonians who were deliberately going back to work the next day and doing all the things they normally like to do. Bravo for them! Were they in denial? maybe. But they also show courage, courage is better than the paralysis, or rage that comes from fear.

3. Let's not blame the people who are trying to protect us. I ~~heard one comment~~ *read one blog that* a blogger who asked: How could they let this happen, who was asleep at the switch? Are you kidding? Does this person actually think law enforcement, even at its best, can guarantee safety? Won't happen. ~~Life is not safe, never has been. Get over it.~~ *Law enforcement is a restaurant, not 100% guarantee of safety!*

4. There is no real explanation for this event in purely human terms. I like President Obama's label: he called this bombing "evil." Evil is absurd, a--surd. Irrational at the core and incomprehensible. Jeremiah 17: 9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately corrupt; who can understand it?" Ultimately, the mystery of evil can never be fully understood, but it can be conquered by the opposing force of love. The mystery of love is at the core of religion and that alone can help us to understand and transform the human heart, from its current condition to that of love and peace toward all.

This has been Dan Price for community comment