

## Daily Reflection

April 4, 2020

It's easy to get distracted when reading the Bible. In today's readings, <https://www.missionstclare.com/english/April/whole/morning/04m.html>, the pharaoh refuses to let the Hebrew people leave Egypt until the final plague sent by God, death of all first-born, including the people and the livestock. I kept thinking about all the poor common folk affected by the pharaoh's stubbornness. They didn't disobey God. They were just minding their own business, trying to survive. How can we honor a God who is so insensitive to such "collateral damage"?

There is no good answer to that question, because it is the wrong question. The stories of the Bible are not passed down to help us judge God. If the authors somehow had the wisdom to do that, they would have given us very different material. The stories of the Bible are there to help us assess our *own* lives and how to best live them. We are called to turn distraction around and ask, "How are *my* daily choices having an impact on others, intended or 'collateral'?"

Today, the church honors The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. He implored us to use "soul force" It has been said that "'soul force' isn't just non-violent and peaceful- it is also truthful, respectful and kind, in both words and deeds." ([citation](#))

Our daily choices invite us to deploy "soul force" regularly-by adhering to "sheltering" orders, helping others when possible, showing appreciation to store clerks, and giving encouragement in calls or notes. Show your soul force today!

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Interim Rector



*Lamentations over the Death of the First-Born of Egypt, Charles Sprague Pearce, oil on canvas, 1877*