

125 Greg Boyd spoiler

You can read the spoiler for Greg Boyd's '*Cross Vision: How the crucifixion of Jesus makes sense of Old Testament violence*' on the Amazon website but here I'll anglicise and personalise it.

Imagine I'm walking along a busy, noisy main road in a city, and I spot Sue walking along in the same direction on the other side of the road. It's too noisy to shout at her, and she seems engrossed in her thoughts – I'll catch her up at the intersection, but I watch her.

She comes towards a man sitting, begging, with his dog beside him and his tin outstretched. I'm wondering how she'll react. Will she give him some money? or smile at him and talk to him?

Suddenly she starts screaming at him, shouting something – I can't catch what. She knocks the tin out of his hand, sending the money scattering across the pavement, and she kicks the dog, sending it scampering down the road.

What is going on?!

Could it be some kind of weird psychological experiment to see the reaction of passers-by? Could it be a Candid Camera stunt? (So I look around and can't see a camera trained on me.)

I've been married to Sue for 47 years, and clearly I know enough of her character; she simply wouldn't do that. She wouldn't behave in that way. *Something is going on here!* I don't know what, but something.

I have to understand what is going on in terms of what I know of Sue's character; there must be an explanation. My eyes didn't deceive me; I saw what I saw, so how do I understand this and how do I interpret what's going on?

(Apologies to Greg Boyd, but I think that's the essence of what he says at the beginning of his book.)

Lord Jesus, we've seen how you cared for people and loved people while you were on earth. We know you gave your very life for us, you bore our sins to give us new life. And we want to share that wonderful good news, but when our friends and families read the Old Testament, their eyes are blinded by Satan, so they can't (won't?) see the Father's love that pours out of almost every page. All they can see is a warrior God smiting all Israel's enemies, a prejudiced God who thinks men are way more important than women ('thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife', or any of his other possessions), that commands homosexuals to be stoned to death.

Please help us the refind the 'good' in the Good News that swept the known world in those few short years after the resurrection. In Jesus' name, and for Jesus' sake. Amen!

Paul Bev. 11.7.20