

10/25/68

Sovereignty of God

Not long ago a young woman asked for an interview with me. She wanted to discuss a ~~xx~~ problem she said. The problem was that of the relation between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. I immediately pointed out to her the fact that when it comes to great, vital, eternal matters there are often many factors that we do not know. Consequently two things may seem to us to contradict each other, ~~which really are perfectly reasonable if we only know~~

or to be incompatible, which really are perfectly reasonable if we only knew the other factors involved. As an illustration I mentioned the fact that if someone ~~1000~~ 300 years ago would have suggested that a man would have breakfast and dinner in New York on the same day he would immediately have been considered as out of his mind. At that time it took nearly two months to cross the ocean. ("Sirius" Cork to N.Y. - 1838 - 17 days) To ~~suggest~~ to suggest that this could be done in the course of a few hours would have appeared utterly preposterous. Yet today it is commonplace. The invention and common use of the jet plane is a factor that our ~~xxx~~ ancestors could not even have dreamed of.

After a little ~~more~~ more discussion it emerged developed that the question was not regarding the general relationship of these two things but was a very specific question. The lady said, "Just where does my responsibility end and where does God's sovereignty take over? The thing that was actually troubling her was fear ~~about~~ about her ~~little=boy~~ son. The boy is very active. She constantly watches him to keep him from taking some terrible risk that might mean his death. He is always on the go and full of energy. She is trying to train him to take care of herself and feels that she is able to keep him pretty safe when she is with him. However, a good many hours of every day have to be spent either in school, in classes, ~~xxx~~ in recess, or going to and from the school. Just how much can she safely say that she can leave in the Lord's hands, and how far does she have to go in personally safeguarding him every instant?

This is a very practical question ~~and one which~~ and one which affects not only the situation described but also many other situations in the life of every one of us. My wife told me once of a fine Chn° couple whom she knew who would go to