

Sitting in the walled garden yesterday I had the chilling experience of reading Naomi Klein's analysis of 'The Zone of Interest', a subtle and harrowing film about the life of Rudolf Hoss and his family, living immediately adjacent to the death-camp of Auschwitz, their garden separated only by a wall over the top of which could be clearly seen the buildings which housed the Jews, and many others, destined for the gas chambers and the smoke stacks also just over the wall. It was chilling on two counts – firstly, that I too was sitting in a garden facing a wall and secondly that her point that we all have zones of interest which preclude others meant that I too could be deaf and blind to other people's suffering going on just over that wall. In Turvey, of course, I see only trees but the metaphor still stands and the possibility that I too have become used to leading a contented life with "ambient genocide", in the words of Jonathan Glazer the film's director, that is,

"the atmosphere he attempted to capture in his film, in which his characters attend to their daily dramas – sleepless kids, a hard- to-please mother, casual infidelities – in the shadow of smoke stacks belching out human remains"

Both Jonathan Glazer and Naomi Klein directly reference what is going on in Gaza now in this respect, both Jews feeling immensely disturbed by what the Israeli government and its army is up to, but also highlighting the underlying dynamic which affects us all – it's not that we are unaware that war or immigration or climate change is going on but that we can so readily and willingly "*block the images and tune out the cries and just....carry on*"

What has this all got to do with Jesus – our immediate zone of interest? That's exactly the point and the point that got him killed. As a good Jew, he's not narrowing but widening his people's zone of interest to the point where "*everyone is going after him*" and the Jewish authorities of the day find their own 'zone of interest' radically threatened. His raising of Lazarus indeed explodes all zones of interest, all areas of life and death over which we think we have control. This is God as ultimate hope and attracts a huge following – even Gentiles are now at Jesus' door. We could map Tory interest on to this too and the clamp-down by such as Michael Gove on all protest which is in any way a threat to the Tory zone of interest in which the rich stay rich and the poor have no place. We can also map on to it the Church's prioritising of itself – not always but often to make sure that the institution endures, is protected for example from shelling out for victims of abuse. I've radicalised this to highlight why Jesus is so important still – the one who widens our zone of interest to include everyone and everything. The seed sown, or zone, that all may have life.

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