

“Violence

[is] increasing exponentially everyday, everywhere you look. Not that we are getting more evil, not even that we are getting more violent. It's just that our instruments of violence are exponentially greater. The Roman sword could only kill so many people before you were exhausted, it was dark, and the blood wouldn't let you hold the hilt anymore. There were limits. There are no limits to our weapons. So, the weapons have gotten worse -- and maybe our will to use them has gotten worse.

But 2000 years [ago], I think we got a distant early warning that violence would destroy us: *‘You would even crucify God incarnate if he talked too much about justice and stuff you don't want to hear!’* So, it's almost the image of a doctor who warns you: *‘If you continue to smoke you will die.’* But you continue to smoke and then, 25 years later, on your deathbed from emphysema, you say to yourself, *‘Oh my God. He was right back then! I should have stopped, but I thought he was just exaggerating.’* So, I think we got a warning in the Christian faith, a warning from God and Christ [about violence]: *‘Cut it out or you're going to destroy yourselves’.*”

- **John Dominic Crossan** in *Living the Questions 2.0*
“The Myth of Redemptive Violence”
www.livingthequestions.com

