

page 10

characters. They are all quite physical descriptions. Let me introduce them.

Mr Darcy

But when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end is not yet.
(Mark 13:7)

Being “troubled” derives from “clamour” or “tumult”. It means to become unsettled, thrown into confusion, in emotional uproar, to make an outcry, or scream. I see Mr Darcy here because he demonstrates the opposite, exactly as Jesus recommends. He stands apart from the noise, quietly observing it, and making his assessments of the various characters and personalities displayed in the drama that unfolds before his eyes.

It seems to me that our greatest problems derive from where we look to understand our world. From the Word of God and the wisdom of age and experience, we have turned gradually to philosophy, science and intelligence, from there to journalism and facts, and finally to social media and the hysteria of fake news (alternative facts). I'm not talking about whether a person quotes from the Bible or not, but whether the application of Biblical principles is visible in their lives. Too many of us simply get on the social media bandwagon and join the ever-increasing noise, as we clamour for attention. Loud Christianity becomes just part of that tumult. But Mr Darcy watches quietly from the side, and I am inclined to join him to gain real insight into the state of our world, and the people round about me.

A few verses later, we meet Mr Collins.

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (Mark 13:11)