“So What, Who Cares”

Over the course of the semester, Theology has prompted me to think on a deeper level as a Christian. As being brought up in a family that has never been active within the church or consistent with attending services, I sometimes do not feel that I am a true Christian because I lack a lot of general knowledge about the religion. Thankfully, this class has allowed me to catch up. I have also noticed a change in my beliefs in which they have become truly strengthened and more concrete. I can conclude this because I have experienced a lot of things outside of school during this semester that can be considered major life changing events such as the death of my adolescent friend from cancer, the birth of my nephew, and the recent self-inflicted death of my uncle. These episodes have made a major impact and have leaded me to give some deep thought about how fragile life can be. I have also started to think about what role God has played in these circumstances and in everyday occurrences. It has been very helpful through my discoveries to have the structure of my Theology class to aid in my understanding of Christianity.

Life is not intended to always be easy for anyone. There are ups and downs associated with life and if we stay true to God’s word, then he will be there to assist us along the way. He will not necessarily make everything easy for us because his intent is to challenge our dedication to him. This was made apparent all through out the bible, especially in Genesis when God challenged the devotedness of Abraham during some difficult times in his life. Until just recently, I have never realized how these stories could hold true in present day. Before truly reading some of the Gospels, I feel as if I had thought of Jesus in the same way that I used to think of Santa Claus. In your heart you want to believe that they are true but you do not know of any strong evidence to strengthen your beliefs. Now that I have actually read some of the Gospels and considered them in deep thought, I have been able to relate to the presence of Jesus on a more personal level because his humanly attributes were highlighted within each of the accounts.

Just recently, when I went to visit my grandma after the death of my uncle, I walked in on a conversation that was taking place about how to interpret a born again Christian and what it meant to be ‘born again’. When they saw me enter the room they turned to me for my opinion because they know I would have some knowledge since I attend a Jesuit University. My initial thought was that they were in on my theology final paper and were quizzesing me to see how much I was prepared to write it. I gave them a spin on what I understand to be a born again Christian and they seemed to be surprised by my answer and to be honest, I was too. I could not believe that without hesitation I was able to openly talk about God and my religion while also sounding like I knew what I was talking about. The ultimate takeaway from this semester for me in Theology is not who wrote what Gospel, but that I finally have a more well-rounded understanding of my religion and that I also have the courage to proclaim my beliefs and pass them on.