

Responding to Marxism

Nehemiah 8

OPENING: We are in a series of messages called, “Difficult Questions”. We began two weeks ago exposing the threat of Cultural Marxism. Remember we said that Marx had predicted a violent uprising of the worker class in America that would be followed with a Socialistic, then Communistic Revolution. That did not occur as a result of the teaching of Economics Marxism.

Marx’s disciples, men like **Antonio Gramsci** and the a group of German Philosophers known as the, “**Frankfurt School**”, proposed a different expression of Marxism that would permeate culture, leading to a similar overthrow of cultural norms. This is **cultural marxism**.

The playbook for Cultural Marxism included polarizing various special interest groups against the Hegemony.

1. Black Lives Matter

- In a Recent Interview with one the founders of BLM organization **Patrisse Cullors** was responding to a criticism raised by some of the elders of the Civil Rights movement who had noticed a distinction between what they were doing in the 60’s and what BLM is doing currently. The criticism was there was a different ideological direction in BLM versus that of the Civil Rights Movement, to which Patrisse Cullors replied: “*We actually do have an ideological frame[work],” Cullors said of her organization in 2015. “We are trained Marxists. We are super-versed on ideological theories.”*¹
- One of the stated goals BLM is to “...disrupt the Western-prescribed **nuclear family structure**”

2. LGBTQ+

Last week we pointed out the degree to which the LGBTQ++ movement was influenced by the same Marxist Ideology.

- The website marxist.org goes to great lengths to explain how the LGBTQ movements has its roots in Marxist ideology.
- According to The Atlantic, if you want to find the individual who triggered the LGBTQ revolution go about 105 miles off the southern tip of Florida to a little island called Cuba.

¹ <https://youtu.be/HgEUbSzOTZ8>

- Today if you go to Cuba you will see no guns on streets, the citizen cannot be armed, you will see no drug problems or gang violence, but you will see that the LGBTQ community is very open and normative, despite Cubans being a relatively conservative, traditional people group

My point is, what we are experience in America is not incidental. It is organized and intentional, and your families are in crossfire.

So now, your grandchild raises questions about her gender and you wonder where on earth that came from... you must understand that she was targeted.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (ESV) warns us to beware,

¹¹ so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

- Perhaps you feel that by expressing your freedom of gender choice you are expressing your personal agency and freedom to the highest degree.
- Perhaps you thing that aligning yourself with organizations like BLM you doing what some did by marching with Dr. King in the 60's.

What I want you to see is that you are not expressing freedom, but rather an innate ignorance of Satan's designs against you. You are a pawn in his hand.

I recently watched a talk by **Evangelist David Barton**, whom NPR calls the most influential Evangelical, you've never heard of. He quoted **George Orwell** as saying, *"Who controls the past, controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past"*.

So what are we seeing today? A rewriting of both Biblical and American history.

What I am telling you is the people who currently have undue influence over the present are people baptized in a Marxist ideology.

These are the Designs of the enemy and they are coming after you and your kids.

And in the midst of this cultural quagmire led by well trained passionate advocates, churches and pastors are refusing to speak up or worse yet, they are getting on board the train to destruction. I am reminded of the poem by **William Butler Yeats** entitled, **"The Second Coming"**.

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
 The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
 Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned;

The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

LISTEN: The DESIGN of Satan hit a massive bump in the overturning of Roe VRS Wade.

3. Pro Abortion

Aren't those separate movements, **BLM, LGBTQ and Abortion Advocates?**
Not according to the the leaders of marxist.org. Who recently posted an article entitled -
"Roe V. Wade overturned, Prepare for Battle".²

How are we to respond as a Church and as families?

CONTEXT: The time in which we live is not entirely unlike a season in the life of Israel under the leadership of Nehemiah. The nation had momentum and it was moving in a good direction. The walls of the city were being established... then SUDDENLY the enemy got organized and went on the attack.

Geshem, Sanballat, and Tobiah— hated that Nehemiah wanted to do anything that would help the nation of Israel to return to its former glory.

Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem were regional governors from among the Horonites and the Ammonites, two groups of people God drove out of the promised land before the Jews.

They wanted to see Israel burn, to them it felt like Divine Retribution.

Nehemiah 2:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant heard this, it displeased them greatly that someone had come to seek the welfare of the people of Israel.

Nehemiah 2:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ But when Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite servant and Geshem the Arab heard of it, they jeered at us and despised us and said, "What is this thing that you are doing? Are you rebelling against the king?"

1. Strategic Alliances -

A. Ezra the Priest

TEXT: Nehemiah 8

¹ And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the Lord had

² <https://www.marxist.com/usa-roe-v-wade-overturned-prepare-for-battle.htm>

commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month.

³ And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand.

So over 6 hours hours of teaching...and you think I'm long!

But notice that for Nehemiah, the POLITICAL leader to truly rebuild and reform Jerusalem, he had to partner with EZRA the religious leader.

So you see Nehemiah demand the construction of a massive tower built for a man to stand on and teach... but Nehemiah doesn't teach... he call for EZRA the priest to teach the people.

That's the first step in change...If we are going to turn this country around, the church must be engaged in the process.

That is exactly what many of you are doing by uniting with this Church. You are concerned about the direction of culture around you. You see that we share that concern and you are partnering with us to bring about a change.

David Barton, whom I mentioned early mentions the subject of American Exceptionalism. This is a term given to us in 1831 by French historian Alexis de Tocqueville. He pointed out that America was the EXCEPTION and not the rule among the nations of the world.

Why is that? Typically we point to political leaders, and they certainly deserve much credit. So we point to George Washington, John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson and the like.

Then Barton explains in 1816 a young man named Hezekiah Niles wrote John Adams. He had not lived through the Revolution, but he was seeking to understand what led to it.

As an eye witness to the American Revolution who were the people more responsible?

He mentioned four names:

- The Reverend Samual Cooper.
- The Reverend Jonathan Mayhew
- The Reverend George Whitefiled
- The Reverend Charles Chauncey

He calls out Pastor after Pastor and points to them as the fuse that was lit to set off the American Revolution. The American Revolution was a partnership between the Politicians and the Priests.

B. A Like Minded Tribe

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

This is something akin to our small GROUPS at First Baptist.

Change happens when good people cooperate together toward a common goal.

There is a local group forming here in Fernandina called, **CCDF “County Citizen Defending Freedom”**. What I appreciate about this group is that they are not only conservative, but they are seeking to be biblical.

ILLUSTRATION: A situation arose with an institution in our county. They went directly to the leadership and resolved in private behind closed doors, there was no smear campaign, so social media posts... that’s why you never heard about it.

But good people doing things the right way to change the course of our nation.

Our own Jack Knocke is leading the effort in Nassau County and several of you are already involved.

Not only a strategic alliance...

2. Intentional Celebration

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; **do not mourn or weep.**” For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. ¹⁰

Then he said to them, “Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, **for the joy of the Lord is your strength.**”

So there is many people’s favorite verse but they don’t know it’s a quote from Nehemiah.... it was a verse of reproof to people who are crying when they should have laughing, celebrating...

FOLKS, **Vance Havner** said, “*You can’t be optimistic with a misty optic*”

If we are going to see a better future for America, we must learn to celebrate the goodness of God.

CAN I BE HONEST? Some of you get to upset when you watch the news. You need to learn to upset the Devil. How do you do that? Rejoice in the Lord!

LEADERS ARE THERMOSTATS NOT THERMOMETERS.

¹¹ So the Levites calmed all the people, saying, “Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.”

Isn't that interesting? They equate Holiness with Happiness. This day is Holy DON'T GRIEVE.

Leaders - One of the key aspects of culture building is knowing WHAT to celebrate and HOW to celebrate.

Did you know that one of the primary things I get criticism for at this church is our Patriot service? Not from the community or any of you... but from other Pastors.

I've had Pastor ask why we have an American Flag in our auditorium... I say, oh we have more than that... we have every branch of the armed forces represented.

WHY? Very simply because I look at this congregation the way I look at my family. It is the Mom and Dad's job to weave traditions into the culture in order to effect the direction.

Andy Stanley said it this way, “What gets celebrated gets repeated.”

The word Mourn is used just over 100 times
The word Rejoice is used over 220

There were 7 major feast days in the Nation of Israel. They had one day of mourning - Yom Kippor, but they had six feasts of rejoicing

¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to **make great rejoicing**, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

They are about to have a sanctified party... Do you know that perhaps nothing declares your faith in the Gospel better than your ability to celebrate and rejoice?

ILLUSTRATION: I find it interesting that the first miracle Jesus ever did was at a wedding party. I find it interesting that Jesus and his disciples were even invited. If Jesus were like most of us think he is... they would have said, “don't invite Jesus he will kill it”.

Jesus got invited to hang out with tax collectors and sinners all the time! This man knew how to celebrate.

Joy is serious business to God.

Listen, if we are going to win people over to our vision for this country, we will catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

It's ok to be concerned, it's ok to be upset, but at some point remember, you are not just a member of a Nation under attack, you are a citizen of a city whose builder and maker is God.

BECAUSE OF THAT THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE.

Teach your family to celebrate what's good and right about America.

Strategic Alliances, Intentional Celebration...

3. Story Telling

¹⁴ And they found it written in the Law that the Lord had commanded by Moses that the people of Israel should dwell in booths during the feast of the seventh month, ¹⁵ and that they should proclaim it and publish it in all their towns and in Jerusalem, "Go out to the hills and bring branches of olive, wild olive, myrtle, palm, and other leafy trees to make booths, as it is written." ¹⁶ So the people went out and brought them and made booths for themselves, each on his roof, and in their courts and in the courts of the house of God, and in the square at the Water Gate and in the square at the Gate of Ephraim. ¹⁷ And all the assembly of those who had returned from the captivity made booths and lived in the booths, for from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun to that day the people of Israel had not done so. **And there was very great rejoicing.**

So these booths were tents similar to what they people had lived in during the 40 years in the wilderness.

All Throughout chapter 9 the levites retell the story of who they are as a people.

Nehemiah 9:6–24 (ESV) They tell the story of creation, the call of Abram, the Exodus, the Giving of the law.

The stories we tell reveal and reinforce the culture we are seeking to establish. They unite us around a common narrative. We see our lives as a part of that story.

The reason it is so easy for the Marxist thought leaders to rewrite history is because we have just such a poor job of telling the story.

One of the great contributions that the Protestant Reformation has made to this world was a return to the founding documents.

You see Christianity had gone in so many different directions, no body was sure up from down. Then men like Martin Luther taught concepts like SOLA SCRIPTURA, in other words, the Bible first. Look at what the book says.

If our nation is going to survive and thrive, we must get back to our founding documents, we must read them, study them, hold leaders accountable to them... and might I say, we must get back to the Bible.

Return to the principles that made this nation great, study them, teach them to our kids and grandkids.

Some of you men fought for this country, and frankly I understand that is hard to talk about... but we need to hear you talk about it.

Remember what **George Orwell** said, "*He who controls the past, controls the future*".

AND TELL YOUR STORY - tell your kids and grandkids how you came to faith in Jesus Christ.

I love to tell the story,
Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old old story
Of Jesus and his love.

Do you know why you have a story? Because someone told you theirs. If you don't have a story of faith in Jesus today, I'd love to share mine with you.