

Never Bow to Evil

Part 1: Stand! Don't Turn a Blind Eye
(preached 1/3/21)

IT'S TIME FOR THE AMERICAN CHURCH TO STOP BOWING DOWN TO AND TURNING A BLIND EYE TO EVIL.

IT'S TIME FOR US TO STOP PRETENDING THAT IT'S NOT REALLY THERE, DOESN'T CONCERN US, OR SHOULDN'T BE CONFRONTED.

CITY ON A HILL. As I've preached before, God declared the Church to be a city on hill for all to see and watch. Jesus created us to be HIS high place here on earth as I preached during the Manipulation sermon series. The world is looking at us and seeing how we act and respond to world events and, because Jesus Himself is One Who ordained us as His place of authority, we DO have influence over world events.

The Church is the only High Place Jesus built here on earth. Therefore:

- When we blind ourselves to evil, evil will prosper.
- When we're too afraid to call it out for what it is, evil grows.
- When we haven't called upon all people to repent of sin and turn to Christ, people fall further away from God.

QUESTIONS:

- Have we bowed to evil because we're afraid that it will cost us relationships with family and friends?
- Are we worried about our reputation, blowback, conflict, and people saying bad things about us?
- Are we afraid that we'll lose our jobs or businesses if we take a stand on God's Word?
- Are we too addicted to "this life" that standing up to evil will cost us too much?

Everything is at risk when you're a Christian! Spouses can leave, families break up, loss of job or life, persecution from authority figures, government, and religions. Ridicule from family and friends. Loss of money, property, and possessions.

Have we turned a blind eye to evil because we don't want to take that risk?

SAME PATTERN. From Genesis to Revelation, the Lord our God has followed the same pattern of raising up a Prophet and getting them an audience with the most powerful leaders of the world. The vast majority of the time God gives said prophets a threefold message:

- Boldly calling out the evil/sin of that leader and their nation, usually in detail.
- To plead with the leader and his administration to repent.
- Warn said leader/administration that failure to repent will lead to God judging the evil of that nation and pouring out His wrath upon them.

NATIONS. Some of these prophets were sent to the Israeli nation & leadership, others were sent to unbelieving nations/leadership.

MOSES was sent Pharaoh/Egypt:

Exodus 6:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant.

⁶ Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.

SLAVES. The evil Pharaoh was committing was enslavement of the Hebrew people. God doesn’t tolerate evil, neither under the Old or New Covenant. He decided it was time for His people to stop bowing down to it.

Exodus 7:1-2 (ESV)

¹ And the LORD said to Moses, “See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet.

² You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land.

NILE RIVER TO BLOOD. Immediately after this, Moses and Aaron are sent to turn the Nile River to blood which they did because Pharaoh refused to repent. The significance of this plague was in response to the grievous evil of infanticide the same country had committed when Moses was a child, toward Hebrew infants. Since Pharaoh and Egypt had shed the blood of innocent children, God turned their drinking and bathing water to blood.

TRIBULATION—TURNS SEA TO BLOOD. Since God is consistent, He’s going to do exactly the same thing to the Antichrist and his empire during the Tribulation by turning the entire Mediterranean Sea and the fresh water sources which feed it to blood, declaring the entire geographic land and all who live there won’t have any fresh water, only blood.

ABORTION. Are we cowed to speak up about abortion in America?

- Since 1973 about 50 million abortions have taken place and, according to the CDC, the average in the last few years is around 600,000 – 1 million more each year.
- God has sent His people to the Pharaoh's of our nation and states to call out this evil and what has happened to them?
- What's the response from family, friends, and coworkers when you and I call out this evil? All of the things I listed a few minutes ago.

COVID-19 DEATHS IN NY. If the NYT is to be believed, there were 37,733 Covid-19 deaths in NY in 2020 (most in NYC) and for this the NYS Government shut the state down, quarantined everyone including healthy people, enforced mask wearing, and as of 2021 is now attempting to pass legislation to allow state government authorities to detain people who fail to comply not only to these rules, but who refuse to be vaccinated.

HOW MANY ABORTIONS? Yet according to the NYS Dept of Health, over 80,000 abortions were performed in NYS which is nearly 3x the death rate of Covid-19. ***Is the NYS Government doing anything to prevent this horrible death rate?*** Quite the opposite: last year they passed the most expansive abortion legislation in all 50 states, allowing it to be done all the way up to the moment of birth. When this law was passed, the NYS Legislature were seen on camera proudly clapping and cheering, then lit up the Empire State Building the color pink in celebration to the most expansive killing of innocent children in the entire nation.

SILENT? ***While we're wagging our fingers at people who refuse to wear masks and vaccinate, we're silent to an act that's worse (numbers wise) than what Pharaoh did.***

BLIND EYE? Has the Church turned a blind eye to this? If people dying is the true concern either in or out of the Church, then abortion is the number one killer in the US taking more lives than war, starvation, natural disasters, pandemics, cancer, heart attacks, and accidents of all kinds combined.

SAFE TOPICS. Remaining silent or picking "safe" topics to speak out about are easy because they involve little to no risk. If you say that all veterans should receive free health care you won't get much blowback, but call out the evil of abortion and you've poked a wasps nest.

PROPHETS NEVER BOWED. When God would send His prophets and others to confront either the people or its leaders, said prophet never turned a blind eye or bowed down to the rampant evil going on their nations.

JEREMIAH. The Lord gave Jeremiah very Sword of the Spirit sharp messages to deliver to the leaders, priests, and common people of Judah. In those messages, God called out the specific sins and evils being committed by all of them, called upon them to repent, then warned that the Babylonians were coming if there failed to be a 2 Chronicles 7:14 moment within their hearts. Jeremiah delivered these warnings exactly as God spoke them and what was the result?

FALLOUT.

- The priests banned him from entering the Temple.
- King Zedekiah was so angry he wouldn't let Jeremiah anywhere near him, even burning a written prophecy Jeremiah penned right from God Himself.
- Then he was falsely accused by the fake news media of the time of deserting and joining the Babylonians.
- Zedekiah's crony corrupt politicians believed the fake news media and beat Jeremiah, and threw him in prison.
- Prisons back then were far worse than now! No light, heat, or sanitation!!!

“ANY WORD FROM GOD?” Finally King Zedekiah speaks to him and asks “any new words from the Lord for me?” Consider this: the Bible states Jeremiah was in prison “many days” however long that is. More specifically, it says that he was thrown into a “cistern” which means a septic tank. Sooooo...we're not talking about a prison room with bars and a bench, we're talking about....ewwww! When the King himself approaches and asks for a prophecy, might Jeremiah have been tempted to say something good to get and stay out of that awful place? Indeed, Zedekiah upped the ante: he had his men pull him out, bathe him, and dress him in fine clothes BEFORE asking for a good uplifting word from the Lord.... If Jeremiah had given the King what he wanted, wouldn't that be bowing to evil? There's no doubt he thought being clean and clothes was better than standing in other people's offal, but he remained consistent in calling out the evil of his day as God had instructed:

STAYS TRUE TO WARNING. In chapter 38 he gives the King a dire warning which includes safely surrendering to the Babylonians and he will be spared, or rebelling and having the whole place burned down. He goes on to say that terrible things will happen to him (the king) including his wife and kids! NOT the prophecy I want to pass on when I've just been brought out of sitting in a septic tank “many days”!

PRESSURE! Jeremiah had more pressure on him than the King, in my opinion. Everyone from the most common person to the King himself wanted to hear positive prophecies of victory, peace, and deliverance from him. They all reacted with anger and hostility when he called out the evils in their nations, urged repentance, and then warned of God's impending judgment and wrath.

MODERN DAY UPLIFTING PROPHECIES. It's the same today. I believe in modern day prophecy and the office of the Prophet. Yet it seems to me that people merely want to hear positive, uplifting prophecies. People have been sending me videos—for years—of “what the prophets are saying” and I mean no offense by this next statement: ***but it's all sounded the same to me for a long time now.*** I hear too much of things like this “this is the year of your breakthrough! This is the time for your restoration! God is removing all the blocks from your life and making a way for you! He's opening doors that were formerly closed! He's shutting up the mouth of Satan and opening your ears to His voice! That which is held you back and being crushed, says the Lord, and you will go forth into new realms of glory you've never experienced

before! This is the year of the spiritual tsunami where the church will rise into levels of prosperity and wholeness like never before!!!”

WHERE ARE JEREMIAH TYPE PROPHETS? I’m tired of hearing those and they come out all the time. There are prophets who claim to be hearing from God who predicted things like Covid-19 ahead of time, but why aren’t people sharing those videos with me and each other? Said prophets are calling out the sins of our nation and saying that things like Covid-19 are the result...so why aren’t these messages and videos being shared on social media like the other ones are?

BANNED! WHICH 2020 PROPHETS WERE ACCURATE? Just as Jeremiah was banned by the Priests of his day from entering the Temple, modern prophets who call out sin and warn of impending judgment are too...by other Christians. Which 2019 prophets were accurate: the ones saying there would be a spiritual tsunami where the Church would advance into the highest realms of glory and prosper?

WHERE IS PROSPERITY? Truth is the Church didn’t change spiritually in 2020 and most of them shut down physically, and are still shutting down. Perhaps we should have listened to the few and far between prophets who called out the sins of our nation, urged us to repent, and warned of impending judgment?

SAME “POSITIVE” MESSAGE FOR 2021. Going into the New Year of 2021, the positive prophets have already spoken the same message that I’ve been hearing for over 20 years. I admit I like a quote from Mario Murillo in response to this...he said:

MARIO MURILLO. “Social media is flooded with preachers predicting the events of 2021. Many are not of God. They are driven by the desperate need to console the weary American Church. That is not the message we need. Don’t go after predictions of what will happen. Seek God and then make something happen.” ***He goes on to say that now isn’t the time to seek messages that will soothe us from the evil in the world, but to be activated and fight against it.***

“But Scott, I thought that sort of prophesying and preaching was all Old Covenant? I heard that NC preaching is all building people up, comforting them, and emphasizing God’s love and blessings?”

NATIONS STILL JUDGED. As I’ve said to you before, the Church has been spared of God’s wrath and the penalty of Hell because everything was paid for by Jesus, praise Him! The nations of the world, however, are still subject to judgment as are people who continue to reject Christ as their Savior. Therefore if a plague like Covid-19 were to come upon America and the world as a result of its rejection of Christ, it still affects the Church and individual Christians. We’re not spared from other things like natural disasters, wars, a bad economy, etc.

NC PREACHING INCLUDE WRATH? Jesus and the Apostles sent warnings to the nation of Israel and unbelievers, and remember this is all NC preaching:

John 3:36 (ESV)

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Romans 1:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

⁶ He will render to each one according to his works:

⁷ to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

⁸ but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

⁹ There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,

¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

A COMMAND. This is what Paul wrote to the Christians in Ephesus, a command:

Ephesians 5:3-14 (ESV)

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,

¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

SEPARATE AND EXPOSE! Paul isn’t just telling them to be pure in their own lives and stay clear of evil, but to expose it (verse 11). ***This is the opposite of some modern day preaching that Christians should never talk about these things, especially if it involves politics.*** If you look at verse 6, Paul is referring to a future wrath being “stored up” for unbelievers who continue to refuse Jesus.

TOO CONCERNED ABOUT BEING “SEEKER FRIENDLY.”

SHEEP AND GOAT NATIONS. A nation is subject to God’s judgment and wrath. Remember that in Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 25 starting with verse 31, after Jesus returns He divides all the nations of the world up into sheep nations who will enter His Kingdom, and goat nations who won’t.

LIGHT OF WORLD. Until the day of that judgment comes upon the world, it’s the mission of the Church to be the Light of the world.

APOSTLES The Apostles didn’t just evangelize and lay hands on the sick, they also called out evil, urged people to repent, and warned of God’s “stored” wrath coming at a future time.

The Church should never bow to evil.

- Esther didn’t bow when she saw the evil Haman was plotting.
- Moses didn’t bow when Pharaoh refused to free his people.
- Deborah didn’t turn a blind eye to the pleas of her general to lead the army against the Canaanites and their 900 metal chariots.
- Gideon didn’t cower under his roof when called to repel the Midianites.
- Paul didn’t shy away after being stoned, nearly to death, but stood up and walked right back into the city to continue preaching Jesus.
- Neither must we.

