

"TOLA & JAIR: Bi-Partisan Inauguration"

Judges 10:1-5

Sunday, January 22, 2017

By: Allen Coleman

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Inauguration Day

- (1) Dad: A church where I feel a little uncomfortable
 - (i) My goal is to make everyone a little uncomfortable this morning, and a little bit angry with me.
 - (ii) But in the end...hopefully provide you with some real comfort and some real peace.
- (2) Donald J. Trump: 45th President of the United States (44th different man)
 - (i) Popular vote; electoral college

2. Protests

- (1) **Women's March**
 - (i) Protest of Donald Trump and his policies particularly with respect to how they view them affecting women.
 - (ii) Madonna: "I thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House" = met with cheers
- (2) DC Protests
 - (i) Looting and **fires**
 - (ii) Limo driver: bricks, sandwiches
 - (iii) Limo=wealthy republicans
 - (iv) Driving democrats
- (3) Social Media

3. Divided Nation

- (1) We are more...**partisan**...than ever.
- (2) Everyone not like me is a threat to be confronted, not a worldview to be reformed.
- (3) To reform a worldview...you need to understand it.

[TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD - "First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view [...] until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

—Atticus Finch]



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II. DIFFERING WORLDVIEWS ARE PRODUCED BY DIFFERING CONTEXTS

1. Tola's Probable Worldview (v1-2)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) No mention of children:
 - (i) It's possible he's single.
 - (ii) It's possible he's married, but they're a young couple that hasn't started having a family yet.
 - (iii) It's possible that he's married, but they are unable to have children, after perhaps, trying for sometime.
- (2) Implications:
 - (i) He doesn't care a whole lot about groceries costs as much or paying 10 cents for bag.
 - (ii) Doesn't care too much about housing market
 - (iii) He probably has a smaller mode of transportation leaving a much smaller environmental footprint on the roads between towns.
 - (iv) It bothers him maybe because other people don't seem to care as much
 - (v) Healthcare costs aren't that big of deal to him because maybe he's young and healthy...no kids to worry about.
- (3) "Hill country"
 - (i) **Map** Judges; **Topographical** version; **Highlight** Ephraim Hill Country
 - (ii) Tola lives in a rural setting with rural problems out in the country.
 - (iii) Mountains in Ephraim: very fertile farmland
 - (iv) It also means he lives in a modest setting with modest income.
- (4) Implications
 - (i) He cares a great deal more about agriculture than the average Jew because it affects him personally and financially.
 - (ii) Where and how people build houses are of profound concern to him.
 - (iii) Relations with neighboring regions and people are of great interest to Tola, particular if what he farms is a highly exported good. Foreign policy matters more to him.
 - (iv) Fair trade issues become much more prominent issues for his business.



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- (v) Transportation costs matter more to Tola because he has to not only come in from the country, but transport whatever agriculture he's involved in exporting.

2. *Jair's Probable Worldview* (v3-5)

INTERPRETATION

- (1) "30 sons"
 - (i) You think the Clarks needed a girl
 - (ii) He has a big family
- (2) Implications:
 - (i) Jair probably cares a little more about the grocery budget.
 - (ii) I have one boy...Jair has 30. You ever have to feed a teenage boy?
 - (iii) It's like a UNICEF drop zone in my kitchen.
 - (iv) He need a bigger house, so he cares about the real estate news.
 - (v) His concern for his transportation environmental footprint is constantly slammed against the simple logistical concern of transporting a big family to a doctor.
 - (vi) You bet he cares more about health care costs.
- (3) "30 donkeys"
 - (i) Having your own mule is a symbol of means.
 - (ii) This is the equivalent of each son having a porsche
- (4) Implications
 - (i) In Jair's mind...he's worked hard for we has. He's poured blood, sweat and tears into the family business to make it what it is today.
 - (ii) For him, it feels totally unjust to be taxed at higher rate that is not commiserate with the rest of nation.
 - (iii) Maybe to him, it feels like he's being penalized for working harder.
- (5) "30 cities"
 - (i) **Map** of Israel; **30 Cities**
 - (ii) Jair is a city slicker
 - (iii) He lives in an urban context.



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- (iv) Which means in this environment, with people stacked on top of each other, he sees resources being consumed left and right and, therefore, sees them as a premium.
- (v) It bothers him more, when he sees rate. So he is more conscious about his environmental impact.
- (vi) Real estate is more of premium, particularly for a big family.
- (vii) Also, being around so many people all of the time, he's far more likely to be concerned with social justice issues than Tola.

[**JUD. 17:6** - *In those days...every man did what was right in his own eyes*]

[**PROV. 21:2** - *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.*]

→ **BIG IDEA:** Differing worldviews are produced by differing contexts. They are our attempts at meeting a perceived need.

[**PROV. 18:17** - *The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.*]

III. DIFFERING WORLDVIEWS ARE SATISFIED BY THE SAME GOSPEL (v1-5)

1. Tola and Jair's Certain Inauguration

(1) Section Intro:

- (i) Now, for all those differences, for all their disparity...it's what they have in common that should matter most to us in these 5 verses.

(2) Both are "After Abimilech"

- (i) No oppressor of the "**Judges Cycle**"
- (ii) Sin is the reason for a nation's disparity.
- (iii) When Eden was lost, so was perfection...and subsequently the place where all of our real needs were met.
- (iv) What was the result?

[**GEN. 3:15-19** - *I will put enmity between you and the woman...Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you...I will surely multiply your pain...You shall not eat of [the tree of life]...By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...*]

- (v) Partisanship



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- (vi) The reason we talk about being bi-partisan is because we know there's a problem that no one is really willing to fix...that everyone is looking out for their own self-interest.
- (vii) We are partisan (prejudice in favor of a particular cause; bias; discrimination)
- (viii) What "after Abimilech" tell us is that sin...and its subsequent partisanship...will not have the last word
- (3) Both "Arose" (v1-5)
 - (i) To confirm or establish (inaugurate)
 - (ii) Tola and Jair left what divided them...self-interest in their perceived needs...to pursue something that each had common.

[EPH. 2:14] - *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*

- (4) Both "judged/saved" Israel (v1-5)
 - (i) Both men forsook partisanship to serve God's bi-partisan will for the nation of Israel.
 - (ii) To worship God.
 - (iii) And in so doing...our perceived needs are held more open-handed, because our real need has been satisfied.

[PHP. 4:19] - *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

- (iv) Not in any other process but the Gospel...not an election; or through resistance...unless you're talking about resisting sin...not a protest march; only through the person of Jesus...not a president...can we every real need of yours be met.
- (v) The gospel compels us to much more sustainable motivations. It compels us not to environmentalism...but stewardship of the earth and its resources. Not to universal healthcare, but to universal human care. Not to foreign policy, but to foreign mission.
- (vi) It is through the Gospel alone, we become truly bi-partisan. And in so doing, the things that divide us are obliterated:

[GAL. 3:28] - *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*



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(5) Both "died" (v1-5)

(i) Both lived and died for the inauguration of this bi-partisan Gospel.

[ISAIAH 2:4 - He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.]

(6) They gave their lives for this vision.

IV. CONCLUSION

1. *We're not a political church*

(1) church nearby

(2) The reason we are more partisan than ever is because we are more further removed from the gospel than ever.

2. *We're a praying church*

(1) Donald Trump

(2) The United States

(3) The Gospel

