

OBEY GOD-DEFY TYRANTS #30

“Who Will Tell The Emperor He Has No Clothes?”

I. Introduction

My title tonight is a rhetorical question based on a famous fairy tale by the great Danish storyteller Hans Christian Andersen...

The Emperor’s New Clothes: Story Line 1

Two swindlers arrive at the capital city of an emperor who spends lavishly on clothing at the expense of state matters. Posing as weavers, they offer to supply him with magnificent clothes that are invisible to those who are stupid or incompetent. The emperor hires them, and they set up looms and go to work.

Storyline 2

A succession of officials, and then the emperor himself, visit them to check their progress. Each sees that the looms are empty but pretends otherwise to avoid being thought a fool.

Storyline 3

Finally, the weavers report that the emperor's suit is finished. They mimic dressing him and he sets off in a procession before the whole city.

Storyline 4

Although all the townsfolk clearly see that the emperor is naked, no one dares to speak up; they go along with the pretense, not wanting to appear stupid or incompetent...

Storyline 5

Finally, one little child shouts out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all! And the people then realize that everyone has been fooled.

Theme

Like the Emperor in Hans Christian Andersen’s famous fairy tale, the modern American Marxists parade their evil agenda in full view of fearful people afraid to challenge what they know to be lies. But one voice of truth can turn the tide.

SO WHO WILL TELL THE EMPEROR HE HAS NO CLOTHES?

This is the question before us today: What are we to do when our modern *American* ‘emperors’ publicly parade before us, clothed in lies, and require us to believe what they tell us above the evidence of our own eyes and the clear commandments of God?

Perhaps we should listen to the wisdom of the Apostle Paul...

Ephesians 5:11

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

The parade of the prideful emperor was ended by one voice that exposed his lie!

ii. Who Will Tell The Emperor He Has No Clothes?

A. The Power of a Parable

Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875)

A Christian who communicated truth through the power of parables disguised as fairy tales.

Hans Christian Anderson

Andersen’s fairy tales included “The Little Mermaid”, “The Red Shoes”, “The Princess and the Pea”, “Thumbelina” and “The Ugly Duckling”. But none more enduring than “The Emperor’s New Clothes”.

1. A quick search of secular websites shows how it’s still used today.

UrbanDictionary.com

“The Emperor has no clothes” is a term for a condition where many people believe something that is not true.

"The Emperor Has No Clothes"

A phrase used to describe a situation in which most people praise or seem to believe something that is false or has no value, because they are afraid to go against the general opinion.

Quora.com

"The emperor has no clothes" is a phrase used to describe a situation in which people are afraid to point out the obvious truth, usually because they fear the consequences of doing so.

2. In addition to all the secular websites, countless Christians have commented on the power of this little parable.

Jack Tierney, IWP.edu

Professor Emeritus at The Institute of World Politics

The satirical idiom of "The Emperor Has No Clothes," applies to situations painfully clear to all yet unmentionable by any. Since he wrote his fairy tale in 1837, *the expression has been commonplace to expose the willful ignorance of a people unwilling or unable to acknowledge the obvious.*

Jack Tierney

Andersen's story shows the vanity of a fictitious Emperor who believes that his subjects accept anything he decrees, even to disbelieve what they can plainly see.

3. America's 'emperors' today do the same thing; they expect us to believe them above the obvious evidence that contradicts what they are telling us. Like the line from a 1930's Marx Brothers movie...

Groucho Marx

Who you gonna believe—me, or your lying eyes?

4. The sad truth is that many Americans are trapped in what the sociologists call 'pluralistic ignorance'.

Study.com

"Pluralistic Ignorance"

Pluralistic ignorance is the mistaken belief that one's thoughts or values are different than the perceived thoughts of the majority. As a result of pluralistic ignorance, people follow what they believe others expect of them rather than being true to what they believe or value.

Study.com

Essentially, each member of the group is forsaking their individuality in order to conform to a perceived common group belief or social norm.

Study.com

Individuals will often follow social norms out of fear because they do not want to be ostracized from the group. People would rather follow along with something that they find offensive rather than speak up and assert their personal values.

Study.com

This is because they have a fear of being left alone and do not want to feel isolated in the group. Individuals have a need to belong in society, and they fear that proclaiming a belief that would be against the norm would cause others in the group to reject them.

a. Many Americans have become willing victims of 'wokeness' and the steady stream of propaganda that compels them to comply with the party line.

5. One of the best breakdowns of the 'Emperor's New Clothes' is from Christian author Matt Burns.

Author Matt Burns, www.Theburnzodiaries.com

This story is a fascinating case-study in gaslighting--a manipulative psychological tactic where you convince a person they're crazy for believing or stating the obvious.

Matt Burns

The emperor's subjects see—clear as day—that he is buck naked with no clothes on, but he is able to gaslight them that he is wearing clothes—splendid clothes

—and he’s able to get everybody to sign on to this unreality because people are too afraid to state the obvious.

Matt Burns

This is how manipulative power-hungry personalities work: if you can convince people that unreality is reality and vice versa, you can literally convince them of anything. Once you accomplish this, you can get away with anything. Literally anything.

Matt Burns

This lesson in psychological manipulation is timeless, but really relevant right now in the current political climate. What we are witnessing today is an overwhelming amount of policies coming out of a Biden administration that defy common sense and, frankly, defy reality.

Matt Burns

There are many examples of this: a wide-open border policy during a pandemic, school closures that contradict science, cancelling Dr. Seuss etc. But perhaps the most glaringly obvious one is the federal mandate to allow transgender men to compete in women’s college sports.

6. The Bible and 6,000 years of human experience tells us that ‘God created them male and female’! (Genesis 1:27; 5:2; 6:19; 8X in Genesis 7; and from the lips of the Lord Jesus: Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6)

a. Throughout human history, it was obvious to everyone that a baby is born either male or female; it is definite and cannot be undone; but today, the emperor has put on new clothes to convince us that gender can change.

b. In Matthew 5, Jesus warned against swearing by heaven or earth...

Matthew 5:36

Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot even make one hair white or black.

c. Question: If we cannot make even one white hair black or one black hair white, how can we change our entire gender?

Matt Burns

So why are we afraid to state the obvious? Well, because of the Emperor's New Clothes phenomenon. Very few people are willing to state the obvious—that there are innate and unchangeable biological differences between man and woman—because they are afraid to do so.

Matt Burns

They don't want to be seen as stupid, or bigoted, or transphobic. So they agree to sign on to an unreality. And that's what this is really about at the end of the day: inverting reality into an unreality.

7. The emperor who says he will empower you to change your sex also says he will save the planet from climate change.

Theintelligencer.com

Take the scare tactic about climate change and rising oceans. Would it surprise you to learn that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's trend projections call for the Atlantic Ocean at New York City to rise less than a foot during the next century?

Theintelligencer.com

Would it surprise you to learn that NOAA expects the Pacific at Santa Monica, Calif., to rise less than six inches in the next 100 years? Or that in a few places, the seas are receding?

a. Has anybody noticed the 5.5 million illegal aliens who have entered America in the last two and half years? What says the emperor? Don't believe your lying eyes!

VP Kamala Harris (Border Czar)

Our border is secure.

Alejandro Mayorkas, Head of Homeland Security

Our border is closed. The border is secure.

b. And what says the Emperor about the biggest terrorist threat to our homeland security? Illegal aliens? Al Qaida? China? Russia? Iran? Nope.

President Joe Biden

“The most dangerous terrorist threat to our homeland is white supremacy.

I say it wherever I go.”

(Who really believes this???)

President Joe Biden

There is no such thing as someone else’s child—they are all *our* children.

(Who really believes this???)

8. Our modern American emperors parade about, publicly proclaiming the most obvious deceptions and lies without a whimper from the people.

9. This is madness; but Matt Burns points out that there is a method to the madness; an attack on God Himself.

Matt Burns

What we are witnessing today is a near-coup-like war against God. Because a war on biology, a war on nature, a war on science, a war on common sense, a war on “the obvious”, a war on reality, is just that: a war against God.

B. Don’t Miss The Bigger Issue!

1. The great moral question of the Emperor’s New Clothes is, ‘who has the power to define truth and reality’?

Matt Burns

The bigger issue at play here today is the issue of POWER. Remember: if you can convince people that reality isn’t really reality, (that the Emperor is wearing new clothes), then you can convince them of anything.

Matt Burns

Once you have obtained the power to invert reality, then you have basically obtained absolute power. And what is absolute power but God? So the real goal

here is to put the American people into an “Emperor’s New Clothes” kind of psychological state, which is a state of easy manipulative control and absolute power over them.

Matt Burns

Once you accomplish this, you have accomplished the goal of every power-hungry emperor and that is to essentially usurp the role of God. This will mean people no longer answer to God as their ultimate ruler; they answer to the Emperor. Instead of being one nation under God, America basically becomes one nation under the Biden administration.

Matt Burns

What we need more than ever right now is for people to put their foot down and state the obvious, especially when we see so many policies being rolled out—one after another—that defy common sense.

Matt Burns

We need to fight against unreality. We need to have the courage to say, “THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES!”

III. Close

C.S. Lewis

One of the most cowardly things ordinary people do is to shut their eyes to the facts.

Christians aren’t called to be part of the cowardly crowd that silently assents to the spectacle of a naked emperor parading publicly in the streets.

To fail to speak up is a sin...

Leviticus 5:1 (NIV)

If a person sins because he does not speak up when he hears a public charge to testify regarding something he has seen or learned about, he will be held responsible.

Christians must not be conformed to this world; to go along with the crowd!

LighthouseResearchGroup.com

In this story, as in life, a large group of people, all saying the wrong thing, does not make it right. It finally took a child, unafraid to speak the truth, to publicly expose the deception of the multitude. A single light in the darkness.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

“The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie.”

(One little lad made the difference)

Dr. Jack Tierney

When his pretensions are punctured by a small child, laughter ensues, the Emperor is humiliated, and at the end, he leaves the story powerless.

So the question to the church remains...

WHO WILL TELL THE EMPEROR HE HAS NO CLOTHES?

Closing Prayer