

The Park Church

February 7, 2021

Title - An Autopsy of an Insurrection Part 5

Text - Leviticus 10:33-34 NIV

As it relates to the spirit of lawlessness, we learned that:

- The spirit of lawlessness is based upon a lie that deceives and sows doubt;
- The lie upon which lawlessness is built is that proscribed boundaries restrict freedom and limit human flourishing;
- The spirit of lawlessness is exhibited by an exertion of the self above any and all things;
- The spirit of lawlessness results in disappointment, disillusionment, and death,
- The spirit of lawlessness is counteracted by surrender to the will of God

With reference to nationalism we learned that:

- God's call to the kingdom rejects nationalism
- The kingdom of God calls us away from nationalism by way of its nature.
- The kingdom of God calls us away from nationalism by the call to operate by a different set of values.
- The kingdom of God calls us away from nationalism by way of its expanse.
- The kingdom of God calls us away from nationalism by way of its methodology.

With respect to pastoral/religious accommodation, we learned that:

- When it comes to access and advocacy, our calling is not to pastoral accommodation, but to prophetic integrity.
- Prophetic integrity understands that access need not produce accommodation and proximity need not produce puppetry
- Prophetic integrity requires never confusing having a seat at the table with having to consume what's put on the table.
- What you do at the table reveals where your heart is.
- Prophetic integrity requires inhabiting proximity with a boldness to speak a hard truth to power.
- Prophetic integrity demonstrates a fidelity to God that surpasses fear of ramifications.

- Prophetic integrity challenges us to choose fidelity to God over fear of ramifications based upon who we know God to be

- Prophetic integrity positions you to see what God does beyond the ramifications that you fear.

In terms of political calculation and expedience, we learned that:

- The church must be seen and heard rejecting political calculation and promoting public courage.
- Public courage overcomes political calculation by personal compulsion.
- Public courage overcomes expedience by personal conviction.
- Public courage comes from the personal conviction of the sovereign superintendency of God.
- The sovereign superintendency of God factors human calculations into His purposed destinations and destiny.

The Problem of Othering: Towards Inclusiveness and Belonging, by John Powell and Stephen Menendian “The problem of the twenty-first century is the problem of “othering. In a world beset by seemingly intractable and overwhelming challenges, virtually every global, national, and regional conflict is wrapped within or organized around one or more dimension of group-based difference. Othering undergirds territorial disputes, sectarian violence, military conflict, the spread of disease, hunger and food insecurity, and even climate change.”

Othering 101: What is Othering? “any action by which an individual or group becomes mentally classified in somebody’s mind as “not one of us. Rather than always remembering that every person is a complex bundle of emotions, ideas, motivations, reflexes, priorities, and many other subtle aspects, it’s sometimes easier to dismiss them as being in some way less human, and less worthy of respect and dignity, than we are.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger

“I grew up in Austria. I’m very aware of Kristallnacht, or ‘the Night of Broken Glass.’ It was a night of rampage against the Jews in 1938 by the Nazi equivalent of the Proud Boys. Wednesday was the Day of Broken Glass right here in the United States. The broken glass was in the windows of the United States Capitol. But the mob did not just shatter the windows of the Capitol. They shattered the ideas we took for granted. They did not just break down the doors of the building that housed American democracy; they trampled the very principles in which our nation was founded.”

In the autopsy of the January 6 insurrection, othering fostered by xenophobic and racist sentiment must be added to the list of contributing factors.

Evangelical Immigration Table

- Respects the God-given dignity of every person

- Protects the unity of the immediate family
- Respects the rule of law
- Guarantees secure national borders
- Ensures fairness to taxpayers
- Establishes a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents

Pew Research Center in 2020

- Roughly 45 million immigrants reside in the United States, representing 13.7% of the U.S. population. That's a much higher share than in 1970, when less than 5% of the U.S. population was foreign-born, but still lower than in 1890, when 14.8% of the U.S. population was foreign-born, and at other points in our nation's history
- An estimated 10.5 million immigrants residing in the United States are present unlawfully, a number that has declined in recent years, driven largely by a drop in unlawful immigration from Mexico.
- In 2018, the top country of origin of new immigrants arriving in the U.S. was China, followed by India, Mexico and the Philippines.

2017 Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy

Unauthorized immigrants contributed an estimated \$11.7 billion in state and local taxes annually, including \$7 billion in sales & excise taxes, \$3.6 billion in property taxes and \$1.1 billion in income taxes, not including any federal taxes paid.

2018 New American Economy

20% of all Fortune 500 companies in the U.S. were founded by an immigrant, and 44% were founded by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.

Leviticus 19:1

'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy. '

Leviticus 19:37

'Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the Lord .'

Verses 33-34

'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. '

Holiness unto God is Pro Other/Immigrant

Being Pro Immigrant is displaying openness exemplified by hospitable generosity.

Verse 10

"When you harvest the crops of your land, do not harvest the grain along the edges of your fields, and do not pick up what the harvesters drop. It is the same with your grape crop—do not strip every last bunch of grapes from the vines, and do not pick up the grapes that fall to the ground. Leave them for the poor and the foreigners living among you. I am the Lord your God."

Holiness unto God is reflected by a positive disposition towards the stranger exemplified by hospitable generosity.

Being Pro-Immigrant is also characterized by a commitment equity and justice.

Verse 33

'When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. '

Holiness unto God is exemplified by a commitment to equity and justice for the immigrant.

Verse 34

'The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. '

Holiness unto God in terms of the immigrant shifts the view of the immigrant from being "other than" to that of being "one of."

Being Pro Immigrant is sustained by an inclusive love.

This inclusive love, commitment to equity and justice, and openness exemplified by hospitable generosity is informed by an appreciation of their own history with the sovereign God.

“Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.”

Deuteronomy 26:5

'Then you shall declare before the Lord your God: “My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. Then we cried out to the Lord , the God of our ancestors, and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey; '