

Capital Crimes, Capital Sins

‘A policeman in the big city stops a guy called Jack in a car with a sheep in the front seat. “What are you doing with that sheep?” He exclaimed, “You should take it to the zoo”. The following week, the same policeman sees Jack again with the sheep in the front seat, with both of them wearing sunglasses. The policeman pulls him over. “I thought you were going to take that sheep to the zoo!” Jack replied, “I did. We had such a good time we are going to the beach this weekend!”’ Yes, the scenario is a bit ridiculous, but it definitely illustrates how Jack is a loving shepherd to his sheep, much more so than any normal shepherd. To Jack, his sheep is more than just an animal. He truly cares for his sheep and always wants it to be with him.

Is this not exactly how our Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, our Father God, wants us to be with Him? Are not we much more than just beings He has created and set upon this earth? For even though we went astray, He knew beforehand that we would and had already initiated before even creating us, an awe-inspiring, marvelous plan to rescue us. He would become one of us, imagine that!, lowering Himself to become just like one of us, a created being, born of flesh and blood, and then, dying in our place, paying the penalty for all our sin, past, present and future,

for all who would put their total trust in Him, put their hands into His, and join their lives together with His, so that we literally become alive in Him, living in Him, receiving His everlasting life, even while we temporarily remain in these aging, decaying physical bodies. And that's not the end. For just as Lord Jesus had to physically die, on the cross He willed His Own death, but on the third day, He rose from the dead, because the spirit of death had no legal basis to hold Him within death's realm. And so, Lord Jesus came back to life, this time, to restored physical/spiritual life simultaneously, like it had been at the very beginning with Adam and Eve. As He showed His disciples His new body, the same one that hung on the cross, but yet reformed, restored, invincible, everlasting. As we will be. We don't understand it, as John explained in I John 3:2, "we are God's children right now; however, it is not yet apparent what we will become. But we do know that when it is finally made visible, we will be just like Him, for we will see Him as He truly is".

Most people, at the very least, intuitively sense that things are not right, that things are not the way they should be, that people shouldn't be living the way they are. Something needs to be done, so everyone can be happy, or at least do whatever it takes to make each individual happy and satisfied. Some people even have some distorted, perverted sense of right and wrong. And so they determine for themselves what they think is wrong and right, and some even make a real effort to live according to their princi-

ples. Some are genuinely sincere in their efforts, but most live with a huge disconnect between what they believe and what they do. If they have any sense of “sin”, they often think that it’s no big deal, particularly if they do not have eyes to see how their sin, any sin, harms not just themselves but many, many other people, most of whom they’ll never come in contact with.

Even with a sense of sin, few people realize the horror of just one sin. Most categorize sin as being on a scale with little ones, medium ones, and big ones. But in God’s eyes, sin is sin, and to break one of His commandments is to become as filthy guilty as if a person had broken all of them. Sin is sin and guilt is guilt. We also categorize crimes; the most heinous ones are called capital crimes, or capital felonies, which normally automatically call for the death penalty. And all crimes are sins. But different from crimes, all sins are capital sins. All sins call for the death penalty. While earthly governments, whether fair or not, may administer what they determine as justice, letting some off with no more than a slap on the wrist, others lengthy incarceration, or even the occasional execution, for sin, which is crime committed against Holy God, there is one only penalty: death. Death for one and for all of them. That is the true gravity of sin. Knowing that, what our Savior did on the cross becomes all the more amazing and worthy of all and more of our highest praise and thanksgiving.

Lord Jesus declares in John 10:11: “I am the Good Shepherd Who lays down My life as a sacrifice for the sheep”. In con-

trast to our great and wonderful Lord, He describes in verses 12-13 most earthly “shepherds” we usually find on earth: “But the worker who serves only for wages is not a real shepherd. Because he has no heart for the sheep he will run away and abandon them when he sees the wolf coming”. We have scores of so-called “shepherds”, politicians, corporate execs, tech titans, and others who serve “only for wages”, in it only for the money and power. The higher the office, the more people this “leader” is in “charge” of, to milk them, tax them, order them to do this or that, tell them how to run their lives, all in ways that will benefit the leader, the so-called shepherd.

Even Christians fall prey to these temptations. Many “pastors” may start out as true shepherds, but get drawn into the world’s definition of success, and strive for ever bigger buildings, bigger budgets, with more and more attendees, social media followers. To the point, that some lose sight of why they started following the Lord Jesus in the beginning. And in the quest to “reach” and “attract” more and more people, they end up doing things that actually become sin! To cite a recent, glaring example, what is billed as the biggest Christian men’s gathering, the annual Stronger Men’s Conference, sponsored by mega-church, James River Church, in our own Springfield, Missouri, this year’s on April 12-13, included “entertainment” featuring a shirtless, sword-swallowing man climbing a pole. This young man (you have to be young to do these kinds of stunts, and he’s appeared on Ameri-

ca's Got Talent), has recently become a Christian, so it was supposedly "Christian" entertainment. Yet this was so secular, so carnal, so worldly, even if performed by a Christian brother, who, frankly, needs to learn greater discernment of how to perform such "shows" and even if he should continue to perform them at all now that he's become a Christian, a man of God. In the midst of this and other questionable sermon "illustrations" put on by megachurches when cost is no object, I would opine that however many men become saved is probably, largely in spite of what's going on on stage. But it certainly draws crowds. Albeit, with an admirable goal, the means can sometimes even be demonic!

But, like our Lord said, too many of our civil "servants", our governmental "shepherds" have their own agendas, and the people they rule over are only to be used to further those agendas, which always include lining their pockets. Witness the sham trials going on in New York City against President Trump. The mockery of a justice system currently going on there, as well as in Washington D.C., in which the crimes of a real criminal, Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, were dismissed as lacking evidence by another criminal traitor, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. The whole lot of them need to be thrown in jail or worse, for crimes against America and the Constitution. Both of those characters just happen to be Jewish, but one wouldn't know it for Schumer is not only a traitor to America but to Israel as well. The deceit runs so deep! They both are so far from God it's

breathhtaking. And not only them, but so many on Capitol Hill are just the same. Sinners, criminals, are most of them.

Despite the Biden's administration complicity with the ayatollahs enabling Iran to launch its barrage against Israel, God, once again, revealed His hand, and in an another true miracle, prevented 99% of the missiles and drones from reaching the Holy Land! There was not one casualty, except for the one Bedouin girl who was injured by shrapnel. Just as the early church prayed in Acts 4:25: "How dare the nations plan a rebellion, ranting and raging against the Lord Most High? Their foolish plots are futile!", so God has overruled them, answering the prayers of His people, Jews and Christians alike, all over Israel and the world. His purposes will never fail. Luke records in verse 31: "As they prayed the earth shook beneath them, causing the building they were in to tremble. Each one of them was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with unrestrained boldness". This was no ordinary earthquake. God supernaturally shakes things and doesn't allow them to fall apart in the process! That's just one indication of Holy Spirit's awesome anointing, presence and power. It's no wonder that the colonial American Quakers were called "quakers" because when they held their meetings, Holy Spirit was so powerfully present that all the people "quaked"! So pray that our prayers will also bring down Holy Spirit in massive power because nothing else will save this country from disintegration and collapse. Only Jesus! Seek His powerful presence!

