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PRESENTS

Frankly Speaking



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REAPING WHAT WE'VE SOWN

Friday, December 14, 2012 I was watching Fox News Channel when the report came in about a shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. It was a matter of concern, but only a passing notice, because how many of these have we seen after Columbine? Just a few days earlier we heard of the shooting in Happy Valley, Oregon in a mall where two were killed and a third injured. So public shootings are not something new to us.

Then I heard about the children! My. O my, O my, what a tragedy! Why? Because they were children! Yes, children have been killed before, in Columbine they were high school students. In 2007 on the Virginia Tech Campus 32 were killed, but they were college students. Then in Killeen, Texas at the Fort Hood Army base in 2009 a Muslim Army Major killed 13 and wounded 32 on November 5, but they were military people. (He still hasn't gone to trial.)

But what is really tragic about this are the children. Twenty "babies" between the ages of 5 and 10, who had never hurt anyone in their life and were minding their own business, bothering no one, and totally defenseless, were brutally shot down by a 20 year old idiot, who was mad about who knows what? (He killed his mother before he went to the school and also 6 adults at the school, then he committed suicide.)

Now the questioning begins! Why did this happen and why can't we understand?

1. The answer is simple, there is no way a human being can understand such carnage, such disregard for the law, and such a dismissive attitude toward life. We are asking rational people to understand and explain an irrational act.
2. One psychiatrist, being asked the “why” question, said this individual was “sick and deranged.” John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives in Washington had it right. He said this was an **“unspeakable evil act.”**
3. The family has to be responsible in our society and we have a society in this country today where family has little meaning. There are many broken homes, and divorce rates hover around 50%. Even where the family has “stayed together” there is not much “togetherness.” We seem to have forgotten the adage “as goes the home so goes the nation.”
4. Society also has to share the blame. Lines between truth and lies, right and wrong, proper and improper have been blurred in our world. People are no longer encouraged to tell the truth, regardless of the situation or consequences. Few improper actions and activities that are wrong are frowned upon anymore.
5. The one thing we have not heard from anyone is, “Why did the Devil let this happen?” Wouldn’t that be a good question to ask the atheist? Their reasoning would probably be that the devil didn’t “let” it happen. The reason the question is not asked is **THE DEVIL MADE IT HAPPEN. IT IS HIS DOING!**

What to do now?

1. Accept the fact that such things do happen regardless of how horrendous they are.
2. We can grieve with the families, as I am sure many of us already do. While we do not know these families, we can certainly understand the agony and heartbreak they are suffering because of the loss.
3. Several have asked, “Why would God let this happen?” The reason for such a question is the questioner knows nothing or little about God. Such attitudes wrongly suppose that God personally controls everything. If that were so there would be no such thing as “free will.”

The reality and truth of the matter is that we are reaping what we have sown. For several years right thinking people have been telling us we should be careful about our conduct. For generations folks have greeted juvenile delinquency as only young people “sowing wind oats.” The problem is that with oats, they bear fruit but it doesn’t look like what was sown. It is also multiplied. Evil sown surely results in evil. That is self-evident. Examples of it are everywhere. While some have insisted that the Bible and prayer be taken out of our schools, there hasn’t been enough who believed strongly enough to “buck the trend,” so we let them get by with it.

For generations and generations we have been told what would happen to us if we didn’t behave. After God delivered the Israelites from Egypt and he proved them wrong in going against Moses, they were told “**and he said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of Jehovah thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his eyes, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases upon thee, which I have put upon the Egyptians: for I am Jehovah that healeth thee.**” (Exodus 15:26) Later they were told, “**But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of Jehovah thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.**” (Deuteronomy 28:15) One only needs to read the history of Israel to know that is what happened to them time and time again. What is stated here to this people contains principles that are everlasting.

We live in an imperfect world, and as long as this world stands, evil is going to be present as it has been since the Garden of Eden. When Paul said to the Galatians, “**for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap,**” (Galatians 6:7), he was stating an eternal principle.

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