A Thousand Voices Crying from the Past "Speak for Us"

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(See Appendix for explanation of Cartoon)

In a hour when a small band of anti-American, anti-God <u>nihilists</u> are pushing to erase America, a thousand voices from the past are crying "speak for us." Saints and Patriots from former days are crying out **for those who** "understand the times and know what Israel [America] should do" (1 Chron. 12:32) to speak against anarchy and inform our neighbor - who may not understand the urgency of the hour. They are crying out for us to love our neighbor biblically and challenge them to love the country God has given us. They are crying for us to risk our own pain to preserve our children's liberty. To risk rejection to preserve the possibility of a nation of virtue.

An Hour of Opportunity:

This article is written to encourage those who understand the times that their **voices now**, can make a difference and could save the union.

Most of us have a been taught a distorted view of agape love – an affection more akin to mercy. Biblical love actually means to **seek another's highest good, even if it comes at our expense**. This puts a whole different twist on what it means to love our neighbor. In this hour when there is a schism occurring in the culture (and the church), people and institutions are making choices of the paths they will follow. Those who understand the times and know what America should do have the opportunity to speak truth to uniformed neighbors if they are willing to risk...

As we watch the twisted picture these nihilists are painting of what America is, we have the opportunity to speak up to preserve an America for our kids where virtue is able to prevail. **But we must be willing to speak now – before this opportunity passes by.** We must choose – either to love ourselves and keep quiet *or* to seek their highest good, even if it costs us everything...

I hope this story will encourage you to speak to your neighbor in biblical love.

A Flashback to 1861: It Could Have Been Your Family:

Charlie Smith lived in Virginia near Richmond. He had an opportunity before the war to have influence, but passed it up, this is his story.

Charlie had seven brothers and four sisters, all of whom were married with children. It's Easter dinner, Dad has cooked one of his many young porkers that he has saved back from the market. To satisfy Charlie's two younger brothers, Mom has prepared one of her numerous fat male turkeys and to spoil his sisters, she has also imported a batch of plump shrimp from the coast for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Easter is always a big family meeting with all-afternoon discussions going well into sandwich time in the evening.

The family farm has flourished and there is optimism about the coming year. However, this Easter happens to be March 31, 1861. In less than two weeks, (April 12, 1861) the Civil War will erupt at Fort Sumter near Charleston, S. C. about 400 miles to the south. Civil War is not a new subject of discussion in the Smith family and it is destined to prevail well past sandwich time this evening.

Partially because of his geographic location, Virginia, the family's loyalties are divided. Mom will do anything for peace. Dad is an ardent abolitionist as is Charlie and three of his brothers. However, the other three brothers have been persuaded that Abraham Lincoln is trampling on States Rights. They lean towards fighting for the South to keep slavery. After all, for about a third of the South, slaves are their largest asset.

While the wives will all follow their husbands, several of them are conflicted about the idea of stealing a person's (a slaves) life and chattel slavery in general.

Unlike the adolescent attitudes that prevail today, many of the 32 children also have many questions. Also, unlike today, they have studied the Constitution, the

Bill of Rights and they know the Declaration of Independence by heart. The four sisters' families are also split right down the middle. With the children, there are 57 about to sit down to this festive moment of thanksgiving to the Lord for that day when He paid an ultimate price.

The situation is that Charlie and his wife are respected as the resident historians. They have studied the history of slavery, seen what it did to England, and understand that the future direction and character of America is at stake. They are clearly the *only ones* at the table who can even remotely imagine what the next four years might look like. More important, they are the only ones who can see what a southern victory will do to America and their kid's future.

So, Charlie and his wife are well informed, respected by the family members, and obviously, the **only ones who can effectively make the case** for where these two directions might take this new America. Because of the criticalness of the hour and coming conflict, it's also obvious that **there will be no other chance, it's speak now or never. What will Charlie do?**

At this moment, there is still love and respect prevailing in the family – hatred and rhetoric have not taken over... not yet. By sandwich time, the discussion is robust. The children and wives are asking good questions and looking for answers backed by Christian ethics.

What will Charlie do at this moment of influence?

To keep the peace with Momma and because Charlie knows that (just like in our hour) there will be a dear price to be paid for presenting his case – Charlie remains silent. The tensions are high but the only ones who speak up are the ones who care more about their cause than their country – or their kids for that matter. By sandwich time, the debate is heated. Much like our hour, speaking up is risky. Charlie knew that many of the 57 at the celebration could still be persuadable but, Charlie kept quiet. The moment of influence passes, never to be redeemed.

Fast forward four years to Easter April 16, 1865:

It's just seven days after Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox just 90 miles away. It is also the same day President Lincoln will be assassinated at Ford Theater.

All is not the same as four years earlier in multiple ways. Mom has killed some of the remaining skinny old chickens for Easter dinner. The fat hogs and turkeys have been stolen by both sides to feed the troops. But more important, minds and hearts have been deeply influenced.

Two of Charlie's six brothers have been wounded in the war. One more is dead along with Charlie's Father. One of his brothers' wives is also a casualty along with 8 of the 32 grandchildren. Two of his sisters' husbands have been killed and one of his sisters. Nearby Richmond has been devastated and the families' once flourishing farm is hanging on by a thread. The count at Easter dinner is now 43 – down from 57.

Unlike most in secessionist states, those in Charlie's family can see that this war will create a very different America than the Founders proposed. While there is far from general agreement about the war, those who have come to dinner had seeds of truth planted in them as kids that have not been completely snuffed out.

Charlie's father and mother taught their children godly principles. While many churches in Virginia were preaching from the pulpit that slavery was biblically justified, Charlie's pastor was a solid abolitionist. Charlie had a platform, so to speak, from which to speak, the background was there for him to use, but he didn't. Now, he feels a bit like a draft dodger who avoided the fight when he could have made a difference.

The "more perfect Union" that Lincoln talked about in his Gettysburg address is on a path towards "all men are created equal" but it will be a much harder path now. Over 700, 000 Americans are dead – more casualties than WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam combined. You see, there were many Charlies throughout the Union – many lost opportunities.

The discussion at Easter dinner in 1865:

Charlie's kids, nieces and nephews are angry. They have lost family members – parents and siblings are gone. Their economic base is also at risk. The discussions of that time make it clear that the peace treaty signed at Appomattox will not end the hostility. They get in Charlie's face - "Why didn't you speak up? Why didn't you stand for the truth? America will never be the same again."

Charlie begins to speak up at Easter dinner April 16, 1865 **but it's too late** and the kids will have none of it.

Across most of America, there were many who understood the times and knew what America should do. But in churches and homes, the case was not well made for *liberty for all*. **It was just too controversial!**

Looking in the mirror:

Detrick Bonhoeffer, the young German Pastor who was executed for resistance to Hitler, famously said "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us quiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Charlie's feelings of guilt would today be excused by too many as "a mistake" and forgotten. Today, to suggest that Charlie should feel the guilt of partial responsibility, is cast as harsh – unforgiving. But these would-be gospel preachers are wrong. Guilt can be a godly teacher. **Forgiveness, will not erase consequences** – when we sin, there will be consequences.

Charlie's theology is sound. He feels the pain akin to a draft dodger, of knowing he should have gotten involved and spoken but didn't. He knows there will be a dear price to be paid because he and thousands, of others took the low road of silence.

What Will We Do?

While the analogies of the story above only go so far, there are plenty of parallels. At this moment in time, we are at that first Easter – but not for long. The challenge to us is not a mystery, we know what to do we just need to decide if we are willing to pay the price – to have those uncomfortable conversations with our neighbor about reality in America.

Again, this article is written to encourage those who understand the times not to let this opportunity to speak pass us by. Some reading this article will need to read some of the articles suggested in the appendix below to be ready for discussion.

From every rooftop, informed men and women, patriots and even a few preachers are saying that on **November 3**rd, **2020 if this radical Left wins** the

election, America will never be the same again. Like the Easter dinner on 1861, it will be too late.

For all the talk and concern about COVID-19, masks etc. those are - categorically speaking -distractions from what is really going on at this moment in America. The "never let a good crisis go to waste" crowd of the New Left is fully engaged. The Cultural Marxists have seized the moment. But they are not our target, those who have embraced Critical Theory (see appendix for more information) will not be able to hear you. Facts, history, and truth are irrelevant to them. Until you take the time to understand Critical Theory, you will not understand all the language about racism being used in America.

Your target is your neighbor, your family – many of these will still listen to truth if you will speak it to them. Take them to the streets of Seattle, Portland, NYC and ask them what they think is pushing this anarchy. Explain to them that D.J. Trump is just the figurehead at the moment at least partially representing a Christian worldview that the New Left hates and must destroy to usher in their godless culture. It has to do with a militant group of Marxists-Socialists bent on doing what they have said they would do for a century – completely transform the moral and political face of our country.

Use social media, the backyard fence, or the next family gathering to speak up, ask questions, lots of well thought out questions. Explain Socialism to them and the agenda of AOC and Bernie Sanders that Steve Bullock and Joe Biden have embraced. **YOU CAN DO THIS!**

Finally, an interesting comment from a Facebook reader. I put this article up on the Big Sky Worldview Facebook. *How Wokeness is a Product of Marxism*, (Which I billed as another good article on Critical Theory, Critical Race Theory, WOKENSS, etc.) I got an interesting comment - a perfect description of where we are at.

"The whole of critical race theory, identity politics, being radically chic, gender fluid, among others are not even part of most of the silent majority's vernacular. But they are very much a part of the Left's. And they are not only vocal, but effective. We best get "woke up" lest we wake to nothing being left of this Republic."

Well said! Go and speak your piece. Make your friends a little uncomfortable if need be, a year from now they may thank you for loving them well.

Appendix:

(See more resources at http://www.bigskyworldview.org/library)

This is a list of just a few resources that may be helpful for you in your conversations, it is far from comprehensive. It is my strong contention that unless you take the time to learn the agenda of Critical Theory (CT or so-called Cultural Marxism) you will be at a distinct disadvantage. Understanding the base principles of this evolving ideology will be of immeasurable value in confronting the real forces at work from the streets of Portland to the halls of Congress.

- 1. Trump Hates Blacks Cartoon explained. This picture says volumes about how Democrats have used Blacks to build their Marxist agenda. Few are aware of the history of the Democratic party as evil; it is radically racist. This article <u>Marxist Democrats and the PC Right</u> focuses on their history. I would particularly point you to the section *Historical Issues and The Democratic Party* on p.7. Note for example that on the vote for the 15th Amendment to Give Blacks the right to vote, every Democrat voted against it, every Republican voted for it. After the Civil War, they formed the KKK and Jim Crow laws to protect their point of view. This history is fundamental to the discussion happening today. This article exposes just how racist the Democratic Party is.
- 2. America's Civil War Then and Now A Call to Action from Dr. James

 Dobson August newsletter, is a great case for what we need to do and
 why. https://drjamesdobson.org/about/august-newsletter-2020
- 3. An hour well spent to understand the battle field layout. Understanding Critical Theory is the foundation for understanding "what's happening in America." A YouTube done by Dr. Glenn Sunshine on Critical Theory and Racism in America (drop down to this title and hit on the man's face or find it on our web page at http://www.bigskyworldview.org/media)
- This shorter article also gives some of the groups CT has spawned. It is a good starting point for further research. https://shenviapologetics.com/intro-to-critical-theory/

- 5. Black Lives Matter listen to these people, they are not just evil, they are demon possessed another biblical issue that the much of the church has walked away from to curry favor with the world. This an organization that is a vehicle for pushing CT and Marxism in America. While I affirm that the lives of Black people are important, I see this organization as Marxist and violently anti-American. Here are a few articles to consider:
 - a. This excellent article by a pro-family activist group outlines the <u>Real</u> Mission of Black Lives Matter.
 - b. In this Townhall article, Ryan Bomberger, a Black man, gives his <u>Top</u> <u>Ten Reasons he Won't Support BLM</u>.
 - c. <u>Black Lives Matter Taught in Schools is Turning our Kids into Little</u> Marxists.
 - d. While you're at it, expose your kids to the BLM <u>Manifesto</u> that is about way more than you hear on the news.
 - e. How is CT and the New Left using white guilt? The Weapon of White Guilt is their Power: Here we see CT enforced because you're white you are guilty of slavery and the only way out is to become WOKE.
- 6. <u>How Wokeness is a Product of Marxism</u>, is another good article on Critical Theory, Critical Race Theory, WOKENSS, but explains how it has invaded corporations.
- 7. For a broad explanation of this invasion see my article A <u>Seismic Shift In</u> Culture Explained What is Critical Theory?
- 8. This article separates the Christian worldview and the Marxist worldview. While many think they can embrace both, the author shows how they are opposites and mortal enemies. You Can Be A Christian, You Can Be A Marxist, But You Can't Be Both.
- Voter Registration is monumental issue that the LEFT is depending upon to change America. Here, Sen. Ted Cruz unmasks this issue at a Senate Judiciary meeting interviewing Robert Epstein, a well-respected academic and Democrat on vote manipulation by Google and other platforms https://www.facebook.com/vinnysinisi/videos/2677295625615990
- 10. <u>Painting Over Black Like Matters to saying Jesus Matters</u> Eric Metaxas and Bevelyn Beatty expose Black Lives Matter movement and the New Left's message.