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WHY OUR VOTE IN THIS ELECTION MUST COUNT

If there ever was a time when God’s people needed to identify themselves with the cause of Christ it is today. There is so much at stake when it comes to our next election as well as to the continuation of our religious liberty to worship in God’s house and to voice our personal convictions and views without intimidation from both the government, our place of employment, as well as among those in whom we associate with both privately and publically.

I believe we have reached a point in our society where the common person is afraid to express their views on any subject lest they be condemned or ostracized for their comment, true beliefs, or any expression that represents their true feelings and beliefs. It is a shame that the common man cannot or will not experience the freedom that so many have died for in order that we may have free expression both in this country and around the world. The question; is it our fault, or the fault of those who oppose our views?

If you have been watching the news you probably recently saw a couple standing outside their home both holding a gun attempting to defend their home on the basis of being threatened by a mob who had gained entry, an illegal entry into their ‘gated community’ and were verbally threatening to burn their house down. Such violence and threatening words to destroy something for which they had worked a lifetime to obtain we must admit was most overwhelming and very intimidating. Especially, in the light of the various news reports of mob violence in other major cities, throughout our nation in the destruction of both homes and businesses all in the name of “*Black Lives Matter.*”

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE

This past month many of these radical movements which came for many of our small businesses, now, while it has not been widely reported (at the time of this writing) there are some groups which have been burning and vandalizing churches from the state of Florida to California. The question is: Where is the outrage? The problem is with the violence that is happening around our nation - it tends to leave most people trembling in fear and intimidation. Now with many of our city leaders attempting to defund the police departments, creating a low morale among those who are assigned to defend and protect us, it leaves in question as to when and who is going to put a stop to this ungodly nonsense?

Following the George Floyd’s police-related death in May, Black Lives Matter, a “*radical socialist-Communist Organization*” which according to some reports has been financed by some “billionaires” who have an agenda of their own; and that is to destroy our government completely and replace it with something as radical as they are. One wonders: how long will this radical group, as well as others of like mind, going to be allowed to destroy our economy and freedoms that this nation has experienced over the past 200 plus years? The sad thing is, the very people in whose name they claim to be fighting for, are the very people who are being hurt by all this. It is people of color whose businesses, homes, and communities are being destroyed, as well as those of other ethnic groups, including those of Caucasian race.

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

In times like these every child of God should read the Book of Esther. This book speaks of two women who became most courageous in the face of bitter hostility. The first is found in the first chapter. Her name was Queen Vashti. She refused the demands of King Ahasuerus to perform an immoral deed. Her husband, a powerful man, reigned over an area from India to Ethiopia. Queen Vashti’s refusal came at a high price. But she refused to sacrifice her moral integrity to accommodate her husband’s abusive, immoral, and degenerate desires. While the scripture says very little about her courageous deed it is nevertheless implied, that when you line other Scriptures up with her deed it is evident what she did was right. One cannot help but admire her in the face of the high cost she paid afterward.

The second woman was Vashti's replacement, a young Jewish woman named Esther. Life did not come easy for her in her youth because she suffered the loss of both her mother and father. But she was blessed to be raised by a godly man who was her uncle by the name of Mordecai (Esther 2:7). Because she was blessed with beauty she was chosen by the powers that be (including God's own providence) to be chosen as Queen Vashti replacement.

Things went well for her. She was highly favored according the Scriptures. But there was one thing that she had not allowed to be let known (much due to her Uncle Mordecai's urging): Esther had not revealed her identity as a young Jewish woman. (Esther 2:10) However, her uncle, kept watch on her even after she had been chosen to serve the king. The Scripture said, "Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house to know how Esther did and what should become of her." (Esther 2:11) It was that watchful eye that became Esther's true security throughout her reign as Queen.

While Mordecai was responsible for Esther not revealing her identity, he later would find the need to retract such counsel. This happened when it was discovered in Ahasuerus's government a man by the name of Haman who despised the Jewish people. And it was after Esther became Queen that this wicked man was able to manipulate the King to make a law to exterminate all Jewish people. (Esther 7:3-4) It was the rule of the Medes-Persians that once the King signed the decree that it could not be revoked. (Esther 8:7-8) Once the manipulation had taken place, the destiny of her people, as well as herself, stood in jeopardy. While Esther at the time hesitated to make her identity known, it was her uncle that sent her a word of counsel:

"Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall their enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:13-14

It seems like we live in a day when the people of God would prefer to spend their time enjoying the luxury of Christian living, within the sanctuary, but strangely silent once they leave the doors of God's house. Such silence is what allows the opposition to gain power and privilege over God's people to the point that the governor of California not only has the gall to prohibit God's people attending God's house, but if they by chance do, prohibit them to sing the songs of God's praise within His house. It is a wonder we don't have an earthquake. (Read Luke 19:37-40 for explanation.)

While Esther lacked courage, she knew the secret to obtaining it; this truth is revealed in what she requested of Mordecai and her people when she called for her people to "fast and pray for her." (Esther 4:15-16) And she also added that "she would do likewise." Once that was done she then would go make her appeal for her people to the king. But then she closed her request to Mordecai saying, "***And if I perish, I perish.***"

It was this profound display of courage, much like Queen Vashti's, before her reign who did suffer loss....that Esther arose to meet the challenge of her day on behalf of her people as well as herself. It is that same kind of courage which is needed in this hour. This election which is coming up Nov. 3rd, 2020 has far more at stake than most people realize. This is not a day to be loyal to a political party. However, it is a day to vote and exercise what freedom we still have. It is a day to vote for the people who will take a stand for freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from intimidation, freedom to protest immoral laws such as abortion, and freedom to challenge in the courts discrimination against Christians who refused to bake a cake for an immoral marriage celebration. But not only should we vote on Nov. 3rd:

We should remain vigilant, alert, and watchful even after the election if the right people are elected because just like the 2016 election, there will be a group who will not accept the election outcome and will again try to maneuver and try to nullify it. We cannot remain silent any longer. The day of silence is over. In Salinas, CA recently, the city council ordered a church to sell their property after 25 years because it failed to meet the modernization of their community. The very council the people elected determined the existence of a church in their community. Who we elect will determine the city, state, and national policies. Those who lack Esther's courage must realize that if we remain silent by intimidation of the opposition then we will have only ourselves to blame for the outcome. As the pastor of Faith Christian Assembly I urge you to act, to vote, to pray, to speak up - it is our day and our hour to have the conviction and courage of Queen Vashti and Esther. We may lose, but at least we had the courage to do what is right...thus in the end we cannot lose. Amen!