2026-07-30 Healing Beyond Betrayal

Following last week's message #3, entitled "Shark Bites," in our topical, summer, **Shore Life Series**, I received some feedback with a request to use this blog to expand upon that topic with specific examples. Who are the "dangerous pawns" (workers of evil) who are trying to paralyze Christians through fear, as demonically empowered "devouring predators" (roaring lion)… that are trying to confuse Christians through lies and/or distortions, as demonically empowered "deceptive posers" (angel of light), taken from the two primary passages of **1 Peter 5:8-9** and **2 Corinthians 7:13-15**?

I did not anticipate that my first callout of deceptive posers would be related to secular personalities, however, yesterday, the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, featured a hearing called the "Testimony of Anthony Fauci." **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, deceived the American people and financially enriched himself, while presenting himself as a scientific savior related to COVID-19. His own personal diary revealed his hubris and lust for the limelight and the praise of people. His intentional lies in the midst of a carefully curated public perception reflect the "angel of light" attitude, producing a betrayal of public trust by a worker of evil. You might be thinking that my assessment is a little harsh, however, I saw how his misinformation catalyzed divisions across the nation that even infiltrated into church congregations.

Let me make it a little more personal… I received an email that expressed I was causing harm by NOT strongly encouraging congregants to take the COVID-19 vaccination. They left the church. I was striving to maintain unity in the midst of strong opinions on both sides of the issue. In my own extended family, I faced strained interpersonal relationships because of our different assessments and applications stemming from what was being presented as "the science." I was constantly aware of strained marriages, estranged families, accusations of causing deaths of the elderly, being uncaring about the lives of people, constant fear of sickness and death, fear of government over-reach and control, fear of financial devastation, and fear of manipulation and loss of freedom. Some individuals were simply unappeasable. One man's ego trip was the catalyst for a spirit of division that crippled marriages, families, and churches.

Fauci, an outsider to Christianity (nominal Catholic and self-proclaimed functional humanist), used his position to make decisions that caused great physical, economic, and spiritual harm to our nation. The senate hearing exposed Fauci's effort to hide the truth. He pled the Fifth on every question directed to him, even though he was granted a preemptive Presidential Pardon by President Biden. Ironically, because he has a pardon in hand, he has no right to plead the Fifth, as he is immune from prosecution for past (potentially criminal) actions. By his contemptuous failure to respond with clarity and truth, he revealed to the world that he was most likely both, a devouring predator and a deceptive poser. His "pro-science" message did not align with the scientific evidence and evoked hostility in particular to Christians, churches, and anyone that held convictions that disagreed with the popular narrative.

The question remains, "where is there hope and healing?" It begins with the humility to admit when we are wrong, and repent. If you were deceived, dismissive, or divisive, own your faults and failures, learn from your mistakes, and make wiser and more discerning choices next time. If you were wronged, actually or perceived, forgive your spouse, your family, your friends, and your fellow believers, and take steps to reestablish the trust that was broken. By revisiting those dark years of national crisis, that had huge relational implication, we discover a pathway, and opportunity, to trust Christ in a way that leads to true healing. In the coming weeks I will look at other specific examples of "shark bites" through, political, cultural, and religious influencers. Some names you may recognize; others may be new names to you. The purpose of this is to help equip us as Christ-followers to be wise and discerning when processing massive volumes of information that can impact our souls, our relationships, and our ministry purpose.