

Let Us, If No One Else, Do Right!

Yesterday while navigating through the rather complicated ticket/toll booth of Herman Hospital, my wife remarked that the guy in the pickup behind us had just crowded up to my bumper and rode out of the parking garage on my ticket before the gate lowered. I couldn't believe it! He just as surely stole from the facility as though he pilfered the machine to pay for his ticket. I asked my wife, "What kind of fellow can do something like that?" I had one more hospital visit to make. As I was about to turn south on Fannin, the parking lot thief pulled up next to me, turning north. So I thought I would get a look at him. He seemed like a well-dressed and very happy man. He was singing away, having a good old time!

This morning Richard Sanchez told me about a man he saw at the grocery store yesterday. The guy walked the grocery cart to his car and deposited the goods into his car. Rather than walk the cart back toward the door or leave it in the provided area in the parking lot, or at least politely in between the cars for a bag boy to collect later, he decided he would have a little fun. He directed the cart toward the store and obnoxiously unobservant of the cars around him, pushed the cart as hard as he could. The cart traveled about twenty feet before crashing into a parked car. Richard said to the man as he passed, "Sir, that's not right". The man ignored Richard and the car he just scratched and maybe dented. He got into his automobile and as he drove off, he too was singing with a happy go-lucky attitude.

Are you wondering what Richard and I were wondering? Where is the conscience for these people? Now granted, it is not the same criminal activity that we sadly hear reported in the course of one day in Houston, but I guess it is a little alarming that more and more average people, seem content to break little rules throughout society. They seem to have no compunction against doing so, but relish the idea that they have presumably gotten away with it.

Last week a story was in the news that some of our good citizens were paying for their cosmetic surgery, by falsifying a claim from an overcharged presumed colonoscopy. When the medical professionals were asked why they permitted, sanctioned, and even gave the idea for this kind of scam, they admitted to being quite aware they were cheating! And felt no guilt to boot!

My heart has been grieving at attempted same-sex marriage ceremonies flaunted on the steps of legal buildings built to enforce the law. These ceremonies are being performed by elected officials who are supposed to be representatives of the people and examples to the community.

I am concerned when men running for the highest office of our land, skirt moral issues while condemning our president for leading our country into war.. This war was to unseat a man who with despotic wickedness has personally ordered the deaths of anywhere from between four hundred thousand to a million and one half of his own people! They haven't found weapons of mass destruction like they anticipated. Maybe Syria has them after moving them at the outset of the war. Maybe they were destroyed. Maybe they were not there and Mr. Hussein was just being coy in his attempts to break the agreements of the treaty that required him by law to allow inspectors free right to the inspections, which he was denying. We know the weapons have not as yet been found on the scale speculated, but what our troops have found, and are continually finding, are bodies of citizens that were not only killed, but also tortured and then killed. The women and children are being liberated from human bondage, education is now available for all and the makings of a constitution that assures rights for everyone is in the process of being implemented along with the concept of elections. I am concerned when men running for office are not in favor of putting an end to this kind of tyranny. But then again, these same men have no problem with the American atrocity allowed by the Roe versus Wade decision that has directly condoned the deaths of millions of our unborn citizens!

You see, for criminal deeds and actions of infamy, we need not go to the big, bad events of the times in which we live, we need only to look into the seemingly innocent allowable of the average

guy or girl that has no problem breaking big commandments in a small way. This is where it begins. After all, it was only three to twenty dollars scuttled from the hospital parking. After all, it was only about a hundred dollars or so of damage the thrown grocery cart inflicted. And after all, it was fun doing it. Doesn't that justify it a little bit? Besides maybe the insurance can pick up the bill.

"Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). *"Thou shalt not steal"* (Exodus 20:15). *"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination"* (Leviticus 18:22). The words you just read are not suggestions, they are commandments. Man did not compose or merely think these up. These commands come from the God of all creation. These are some of the rules that our forefathers used to write the laws that govern our country.

Please give thought with me to three ways we can stop the slide down the slippery slope of immorality.

1. Start Young

When Rachel Hawkins was eight years old, she went to a birthday party with some of her family. All the kids were entitled to free refills, but the young man behind the counter decided to have some fun with Rachel and said, "that will be twenty-five cents for the re-fill." She went back to her brother-in-law who was hosting the party and he assured her there was no charge. She refused to go back to the counter without twenty-five cents. It was only after the young man said he was kidding that she relented to her free refill. When asked why she held out, the little girl said, "Because I have to do what's right". Honesty matters doesn't it? It is ingrained in her, because she has learned from her youth to do right and be honest!

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

2. Be Faithful in the Little Things

Jesus said, *"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much"* (Luke 16:10).

3. Raise Up Your Personal Standard.

Don't be satisfied with being where the crowd is. Stand alone, if necessary, but be right with God and do right! Listen again to that still, small voice that is telling you to do right! *"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (Matthew 13:9). One man, one woman can make all the difference in the world!

- Pastor Pope -

[Back to Pastor's Word](#)