“Praying For Lady Liberty In ICU”

Luke 18:1-8
A Week of “Fireworks” Following the Fourth!

Ben goes to ICU; Bob McWhorter’s dad ICU?
Two separate black citizens shot by police officers – St. Paul MN and Baton Rouge, LA
11 officers shot, 5 killed Thurs. night in Dallas at rally protesting police brutality
** more shot since then!
Our “Lady Liberty” is hurting!
The Complexity of One Issue Under the Microscope!

Q: the issue of police officers killing black citizens?

* Philando Castile, St. Paul, MN, (Wed);
  Alton Sterling, Baton Rouge (Tues)

* 136 blacks killed by police in 2016 / 503 total
* 306 blacks in 2015 / 990 total

* complicating – “each stat has a story”
  GSP officer nearly drowned, shot suspect here in Hall County
Rest of the Story

In 2015, 50% persons killed by police were white (62% of pop); 30% black (13% of pop)

What about racial profiling?
Bureau of Justice Statistics, 75 largest counties in USA:
62% of robberies; 57% of murders; 45% assaults committed by blacks (13% pop)
Law Enforcement Deaths

Dallas Tx last Thursday night – 11 ambushed, shot, 5 died / MORE officers shot since

53 in USA in 2016, 21 by gunfire (now +5) (Officer Down Memorial Page)

2015 = 130 LODD, 39 by gunfire
2014 = 145 LODD, 47 by gunfire

40% of cop killers are black.
Symptoms of Our National Illness

**Cultural leukemia** – internal war; **facts don’t matter** (underlying: no longer a value in TRUTH)

**Rebellion** against authority

**Immorality is codified into law**, leading to the oppression of God’s people – (Iowa courts)

**JUDGES study** = Idolatry = Immorality = Anarchy
Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
What to Do? Luke 18:1

1. We. Will. Pray!

Luke 18:1 – “at all times they out to pray and not lose heart”

Pray for:

Luke 18 Parable focus is justice
Frailty of earthly kingdoms, so pray for the Beauty of God’s Kingdom (Thy Kingdom Come)

*So pray for Kingdom extension!
2. Watch For God’s Sovereign Hand In The Nations, Including Ours

God raises up / He puts down

"It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding” (Daniel 2:21).

“And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation” (Acts 17:26).
1. I’m not racist; it’s not my problem. It’s not my son, not my community.
2. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
   Genesis 4:9 – (after Cain killed Abel)

3. Resolve to Be Part of the Solution
4. Work Passionately For The Kingdom

Jesus: “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done”

Invest in Mission Partners:
* SBC, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
* Good News @ Noon
* My Sister’s Place
* Gateway House
* Choices Pregnancy
* Jon Huebner / Apartment ministries
* New Work Foundation
Jesus + Woman of Alabaster Jar of Expensive Perfume: Mark 14:1-8

Jesus is nearing the Cross – tragedy ahead!
She could not stop it.
She was a sinner.
She wept and grieved
Not having a towel, she wiped with her hair.

“She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial” (Mark 14:8).