LBW 462

Under the Influence of Devils

'Two young boys were walking home from Sunday school and sharing their reflections on the lesson. They had been studying the temptation of Christ in the wilderness. Little Peter said to his friend John, "Do you believe that stuff about the devil? Do you think there really is a devil?" John looked at him and said, "Naah —it's just like Santa Claus—it's your dad".'

Wow! If only that were true!! But that wouldn't speak well of fathers, now would it? On the other hand, many dads in some ways actually could actually fill the bill to be a seeming devil due to their sinful lives. Deadbeat "dads" "father" children whom they don't even know exist, or worse, don't acknowledge them even if they know about them. Modern well-known case in point, Navy Joan Roberts, for years the unacknowledged fourth daughter of Hunter Biden, for which a DNA test proved that he was the father, resulted in Hunter and illegitimate President Joe Biden admitting that she was indeed Hunter's daughter and Joe's granddaughter, though they were successful in legally preventing her from assuming her father's surname. What a mess.

But his case is only one of apparently multiple thousands. Dads in particular, and men in general, today are being "bedeviled" on multiple fronts. Truly the devil through multiple demonic spirits has been busy attacking the very basis of masculinity as part of his grand strategy of undermining the bedrock foundations of our God-given identities. The disease of feminism planted the sin of envy in women worldwide. Building on the sin against women by overly patriarchal societies which all too often relegated women to second-class status, or worse, to little more than a man's property, coupled with the frequent outright exploitation of women by men in often violent, abusive and criminal ways, the devil managed to convince most women that they have always been victims of men, so they must rebel, assert themselves over against men, break through the ceilings, "glass ceilings", or whatever, in order to make themselves at last equal with men. Men, for their part, must learn to accommodate women and their concerns. Men must learn to subject themselves to women, to obey them in all the appropriate ways when women are their superiors in whatever circumstances. All this has resulted in the degradation of men and masculinity in most modern wealthy, western societies. One result is that the majority of college graduates these days are women, at almost a 60%-40% ratio. More and more men are "falling through the cracks", deprived of their God-given gualities and drives which promote healthy, righteous societies.

Simultaneously, women have been brainwashed to jettison all the traditional markers of ladylike femininity because it is perceived to display weakness and subservience to villainous masculinity. Thus, women now have to be like men, to be equal to them in every respect, even to the point of serving on the front lines in armed combat, despite their inability to match men in physical strength and aggressiveness. Women suffer. Men suffer. The whole society suffers. Families break up. The basic building block of culture is cracked. Transgenderism flourishes. Not only are many children bereft of one or both parents, many more are just killed off through various forms of abortion because they're in some way inconvenient, deemed to be impediments to living a full life by their would-be mothers and/or fathers.

Worse still, from the point of view of societal health, nowadays, children are not even being conceived at all, as relationships between men and women are not even fostering a need to procreate in the first place. Nearly the entire world is slowly committing suicide, as very few countries are producing enough children to maintain its population, not even America. Since a fertility rate of 2.1 children born per woman is needed to maintain a population, most of the world outside of subsaharan Africa is losing population. The fewest babies per woman in the world is now Taiwan, at the astonishing rate of just 1.09. South Korea is second lowest at 1.1. Italy is little better at just 1.24. America's in only 1.84. Without massive immigration, we'd be losing population. It looks like the entire world is on a path to eventual death. Which is certainly the devil's ultimate goal.

First though, he needs to kill off all the Jews, followed by all the born-again, Bible-believing Christians, because we act as God's agents in the earth. And to speed up the process, war is a most useful tool. It has the "great" effect of killing off masses of people in just days, weeks, months and a few years! Serves the devil's purpose oh so very well!

Consider now the demon-possessed little boy in the record of Mark 9. First we know that though the boy's father had taken him to Lord Jesus' disciples for prayer and deliverance, they'd failed. This must have shocked them, because we know they'd previously successfully exorcised many other demons in Jesus' name. In desperation the man brings his son to Lord Jesus. With fading hope, about to give up, he approaches the Lord as a last resort, "if You're able to do something, anything". Lord Jesus reprimands him for his weak faith, but at the same time encourages him to buck up his faith. The father appropriately repents, with tears, asserting his faith, but praying the Lord to strengthen it.

The Lord asks for some particulars of the son's condition. We know that the boy had been afflicted with this evil spirit since early childhood. This tells us that the little boy had suffered some traumatic event, or perceived that he had, which opened up his spirit and soul to being first influenced and taken over by one or more evil spirts of deafness and muteness. Someone had sinned against the boy, or it was perceived by him to have been some sinful act against him, that set him up for this demonic oppression.

The Lord Jesus, then simply spoke to the unclean spirit, commanding it to vacate this boy, and leave him forever. The

Lord put a seal on this boy rendering his spirit off limits to this evil spirit, permanently. Which is not to say that this boy later in life could not once again be taken over by a different demon. It would all depend on how he lived his life henceforth. Though it was beyond the scope of Mark to tell us, we can surmise that, thanks to this encounter with the Son of God and Man, his father and his son would become lifelong followers of the Lord, and among the first members of the early Church. Such an outcome is entirely plausible and likely.

We also learn from this encounter how demonic spirits can affect the human body. Solely in the business of torment, it could cause the boy's body to convulse, gnash teeth, foam at the mouth, and become rigid, motionless, appearing dead. And when the Lord expelled the demon, it "shrieked", also illustrating that it could speak through the boy's vocal cords. At the Lord's word, it caused the boy a final few multiple seizures, then fled, never to be seen again by this family. A restored, healthy and happy son was now reunited with his father and family.

The disciples rightly questioned why they weren't able to send the demon packing. And from the Lord's answer, "This type of powerful spirit can only be cast out by fasting and prayer", we know that the demons, and by extension fallen angels, indeed all the spiritual beings Father God created, are not the same. Indeed they have ranks of authority, power and purpose. They are varied in multiple ways. And the one in this boy was a more powerful one, presumably existing in fewer numbers than more "run-of-themill" evil spirits, and to cast them out would require more spiritual preparation on the part of the disciples, and us, today, to rid people of them. Prayer and fasting ahead of time enables our beings to contain and access more of Holy Spirit's guidance and power by which these more powerful evil entities can be dislodged and dispatched to hell. Indeed, when the question was raised at the Amendment 3 Town Hall that John and I attended last Thursday night, of what we can do to help defeat the unlimited abortion constitutional amendment, the answer came back: pray and fast. For fasting does enable us to wield more spiritual power and authority, giving our prayers just that much more "oomph" in enforcing Lord Jesus' kingdom authority on this earth.

For this fight against abortion, the legalized killing of the most helpless human beings, is truly a spiritual battle. It is the tip of the evil spear which aims to destroy all of humanity, as the devil loathes us and God with a vengeance not unlike Trump derangement syndrome! For those afflicted with "TDS" are under the influence of devils, and they each and every one need deliverance. Though they must recognize their need, and that requires that their situation is lovingly explained to them, so they can make an informed decision. They need our pity and compassion, but not our condemnation. They need our fasting, and prayers, that they may see the error of their ways, and return to the loving embrace of their Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ the Savior of all.