

Mixed Feelings

‘Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to find out if anybody was paying attention to what he was saying. As each person came up to him with extended hand, he flashed [his] big smile and said, “I murdered my grandmother this morning”. People would automatically respond with comments such as “How lovely!” or “Just continue with your great work!” Nobody listened to what he was saying, except one foreign diplomat. When the president said, “I murdered my grandmother this morning”, the diplomat responded softly, “I’m sure she had it coming”.’

Well, whether or not his grandmother had something coming, Roosevelt’s experiment proved that most people simply don’t listen. As if we needed any more evidence of that! How many times have you said things to someone who afterwards you would swear never heard a word you said? Not that you’ve had someone else’s words go in one ear and just as quickly, exit out the other, a direct flight with no stops in between! Or what about the lunacy and absolute insanity of many of the people who’ve been rioting in America’s cities the last few weeks? Even those who are perfectly and totally aware of what is going on, financing it, procuring riot projectiles and materials, and organizing and training protest leaders, even those higher ups are stark raving mad,

though they think that they only are truly sane. According to most of them, us here gathered together in this place this morning, and others like us all across America's fruited plains, are deplorable idiots and nincompoops and worse. We're so pitifully mentally-challenged that we blindly cling to the Bible as if it was more than just a collection of fairy tales. But, according to this holy book of supposed fairy tales, those people are the fools. Not us. For us who acknowledge God, and sincerely seek to follow Him, as He directs, we're the ones who receive knowledge and wisdom, and know right from wrong, what's false and what is truth.

The newly "liberated" enclave in central Seattle called "Free Capitol Hill", or officially, "CHAZ" the "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone", has checkpoints for all who seek to enter. Fees must be paid by businesses within to stay operating. This "land" self-declared not part of the United States, is a nirvana, a paradise, a utopia, in which their leaders once invited the homeless to dinner, who then proceeded to steal all the food. So one of the lead Antifa organizers there begged that "vegan meat and soy" be trucked in! A few other needs listed included cigarettes, lighters, Gatorade, tents, bedding, personal fans, body wash and lotion! How long will it take until they realize they're utter fools. Don't hold your breath. If they were this stupid creating this police-free autonomous zone, don't imagine they still have the mental faculties sufficient to realize they're actually wrong about anything.

As ridiculous as they are, and the others across this country

demanding the defunding and dismantling of police departments, and reparation payments to black Americans for their sufferings and economic contributions during past centuries of slavery and the ongoing racism and oppression now, to the tune of \$14 trillion dollars, as called for by Black Entertainment Television's founder Robert Johnson, we really shouldn't be all that surprised. Famed black intellectual Thomas Sowell recently tweeted: "When slavery is mentioned, too many people automatically think of whites enslaving blacks. That is not even one-tenth of the story of slavery, which existed on every inhabited continent". "The number of whites who were enslaved in North Africa by the Barbary pirates exceeded the number of Africans enslaved in the United States and in the American colonies before that put together". "Slavery has existed all over the planet for thousands of years, with black, white, yellow and other races being both slaves and enslavers. Does that mean that everybody ought to apologize to everybody else for what their ancestors did?" "Have we reached the ultimate absurdity where some people are held responsible for things that happened before they were born, while other people are not held responsible for what they themselves are doing today?"

But those making these claims and worse, in a sense, can't help themselves. They are simply adult children. They've had no upbringing. They have no knowledge of their real Heavenly Father. It's not that God ever took a long hike and never came back, it's that today's modern children were never taught even to look

for Him. On the contrary, they were taught by their faux father, the father of lies, to look everywhere for fulfillment except in the Word of God. Since this is the case, as the Bible warns, why should we be surprised? And especially so when we consider the very disciples Lord Jesus so painstakingly taught for years!

Consider our merry band of disciples after Resurrection Day. During the forty days since Lord Jesus' resurrection, they have seen Him many times. They've touched Him, conversed with Him, shared meals, seen Him perform mighty miracles, and most importantly, were taught by Him how all the Scriptures prophesied about Him, before His final departure from them to go back to His home in Heaven. If you or I had been there, we would have been far better than they, now wouldn't we! We would have been far smarter and understanding of what was really happening, of the actual state of things in the days just prior to our Lord's glorious ascension into Heaven. Now wouldn't we! Or would we?

This Bible also records briefly, probably to avoid too much embarrassment for the intrepid disciples, their reaction to Christ's impending departure, and ascension back into Heaven. For even after all His patient instruction and teaching, at this last gathering, recorded in Acts 1:6: 'they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for You to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"' As if this was the most important thing that the Lord had come to do! Can we possibly excuse them for their shortsightedness? For we would never have been so narrow minded not to have seen the

bigger picture, now would we? Even after teaching them all the Old Testament prophecies about Him, they still hadn't grasped the vast enormity of His work, just concluded on the cross and at the tomb. As we'll see next Sunday, when we observe Pentecost, it wasn't until they received Holy Spirit in full that the light suddenly came on in their heads. Sure, the Bible prophesied that the Messiah would come and restore the Kingdom of Israel, but they and most others of their time and even since didn't grasp the immensity of even that. For the Kingdom of Israel is so much more than even the great Israelite Empire of King Solomon, that the greatest earthly glory Israel as a kingdom ever had is as nothing compared to what its true destiny is to be when Christ Jesus indeed does "restore" it to what it was always supposed to be.

Always patiently, Lord Jesus answered them, in verse 7: "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know". In other words, don't you worry about those things. You have other things that require your undivided attention in this new age now unfolding as the Christ ascends to Heaven. Namely, He explains in the next verse: "'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you'. [Why?] 'And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth". Probably not what they wanted to hear. Truly they had mixed feelings about all the proceedings. So glad that Christ Jesus was with them yet here and now again, but sad

that He was leaving. At the same time, still fearful for their lives as the Jewish leaders quite possibly wanted to exterminate them if they said or did anything disagreeable to the “big wigs”. But also in complete awe and wonder of Him as they received His blessing, saw clouds form around Him and He slowly ascend upward into Heaven. As they watched, He got so far away they could barely see Him anymore. Surely there must have been tears in their eyes as He disappeared from their sight. Then, just for this very occasion, not one but two angels had been dispatched to redirect their eyes and vision to their new task which lay at hand. These may well have been the same two angels who had come down and rolled away the stone that had sealed Lord Jesus’ tomb. Verse 11 quotes them: “Men of Galilee”, they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from heaven in the same way you saw Him go!”

So in other words, He is coming again. But until then, get working! Stop staring into Heaven, hoping to glimpse Him again. Instead do what He commanded, which verse 8 declares: “be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”, in St. Louis, in Missouri, wherever we go, as Holy Spirit gives us opportunity. No mixed feelings for us, for as we gaze upon the madness that threatens to overtake the whole country, we see clearly just how vital it is that we pray and witness. As He commanded.

