

Election Time Is Coming: How Will You Vote?

by Perry Sexton

“But they cried, saying, Crucify *him*, crucify him” (Luke 23:21). “And they crucified Him” (v.33). But the story is not over. Not many days after this terrible event God, speaking through Peter, said to those who voted to crucify Jesus, “...ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain” (Acts 2:23). They were guilty of shedding innocent blood! How were they guilty? By voting to crucify Him! One can deny this fact, but it does not change the truthfulness of it one iota.

As in all things, it is a matter of the heart: “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34). “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things” (v.35). Do you think abortion is a good thing?

What of those who do not vote whenever they have a clear choice to stand for some morally right thing? Are they guiltless? Not at all. There are multitudes of principles in the Bible which condemn such. Here are but a brief mention of a few: The “priest” and the “Levite,” both “passed by” (Luke 10:31,32). “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad” (Matt. 12:30). Where does Jesus, a member of the Godhead, stand on abortion? God hates “...hands that shed innocent blood ... An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations ...” (Prov. 6:16-19). Please read and ponder James 4:17.

Read the accounts of Jesus being betrayed and crucified and note the comparisons between that and people today who are involved in abortion in one manner or another, including the sin of apathy. Is not the heritage of the Lord (**Psa. 127:3**) being betrayed, sold out, denied, passed by, ignored, and people stand by while the innocent blood is shed at a rate of 3,500 per day on American soil (cp. Duet. 19:10), and for what? (See Psa. 106:38). Whom do you serve: the God, or the god – selfishness (Matt. 6:24; Phil. 3:19).

What will God say to YOU someday? Will it be: “ye have taken, and by wicked hands have aborted innocent children” (cp. Acts 2:23 above)? Is innocent blood on your hands? If so, contact the church of Christ nearest you to learn the remedy. ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

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(II Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Evangelism: Converting Self (Part 5)

(Which Complex Do We Have?)

by Perry Sexton

Let us look at some Bible examples: (space will not allow for complete treatment here – read the verses). Let us look at some great men, but not perfect men; human beings like you and me. Let us learn from their weaknesses and strengths and make application to us in this day with our God given mission.

The Moses complex: Remember, Moses had been a nobleman in Egypt, but now he is a shepherd in this mountainous area (Exod. 3:1). Perhaps this had something to do with his complex. He was called by God from the burning bush (Exod. 3:5-6). God gave the mission to Moses (Exod. 3:10).

Moses' complex is seen in verse 11. The first excuse: “Who am I” (Exod. 3:11)? The second excuse: “what shall I say unto them” (Exod. 3:13)? The third excuse: “they will not believe me” (Exod. 4:1). The fourth excuse: “I am not eloquent ... I am slow of speech ... and of a slow tongue” (Exod. 4:10). I can make every one of these excuses. How about you? Moses recognized his weaknesses, but should not have allowed them to hinder him. God took away all these excuses (Exod. 3:12; 3:14; 4:2ff; 4:11f). God gave him assurance.

Moses had an “inferiority complex.” What about us? Let us compare ourselves: We are called by the burning word of God (cp. Jer. 23:29; 20:9; cp. to the early Christians: Acts 8:4; 2 Thess. 2:14; Mark 16:15). Moses' mission was to free God's people. Our mission is to preach the gospel that people might be free from sin and sin's consequences. God has given us assurance (Matt. 28:19,20; Heb 13:50).

Do our excuses often sound like Moses' excuses? Compare: "Who am I that I should go unto the lost (family / friends / whoever)?" (You are a child of God.); "What shall I say unto them?" (Tell them of salvation.); "I don't know anything." (We have God's Word!); "They will not believe me" (Many will not, but some will. It may be the one we neglect.); "I am not eloquent" (The power is in the Word – Rom. 1:16; God does not require us to be eloquent.); "I am afraid" (We should be more afraid of Hell – Rev. 21:8).

If we suffer from the inferiority complex we can overcome it by:

- (1) Realizing that we are somebody – we are the children of God.
- (2) We have something very valuable – the saving Word of God (Rom. 1:16).
- (3) God has given us a special mission (Mark 16:15). The "inferiority complex" must be overcome or it will overcome us.

The Jonah complex: God gave Jonah his mission (Jonah 1:2). But Jonah ran away! [Remember the story: Jonah fled; the fish; Jonah preached; Nineveh repented; Jonah became angry; the gourd; the gourd withered; Jonah angry again]. Think of this: the fish "vomited" or "spewed" Jonah out; Jesus said to the Laodiceans, the lukewarm: "I will spue [vomit] thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:16).

Jonah had a "**superiority complex.**" He thought he, being a Jew, was better than the Gentiles. He did not want them to be saved. Now what kind of an attitude is that? What about us? Do we want all races to be saved; all classes, etc. Are we of the same mind as God in this (1 Tim. 2:4)? We live in a society where some people care more about the "gourd" than souls. Some care more about frogs than human life – abortion. We are not told of Jonah's end, whether he repented or not. But our end is in our hands! We have a mission! Are we running away from it? Do we need to repent (cp. Rev. 2:5)???

The Elijah complex (1 Kings 19): He had a great victory on Mount Carmel, but then he had a letdown. Jezebel sought to kill him; he fled for his life; then he prayed God would take his life. He felt he was all alone, but there was yet 7,000. When we get down, we need to look to other Christians – we are not alone – though few.

The Jeremiah complex: Jeremiah councils God (Jer. 12:1). It is sad that many today think they have a better way of salvation and a

better way of evangelizing than God. Jeremiah was wearied with the prosperity of the wicked (Jer. 12:2). God rebuked Jeremiah (Jer. 12:5). Let us be admonished: "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal. 6:9).

We need to overcome all such evil complexes. We need Paul's attitude or complex: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

WHICH COMPLEX DO WE HAVE?

Moses: I can't do it.

But he did.

Jonah: I won't do it.

But he did.

Elijah: I'm all alone.

But he wasn't.

Jeremiah: I can't take it.

But he did.

Paul: I can do it.

And he did.

Ours: ? ? ?

What will we do?

Let us be reminded of a few things Jesus said: "wist [know] ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49); "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (John 4:34); "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me" (John 6:38); "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Let us learn from this.

Time is ever marching onward. With each tick of the clock we are getting closer to the end of our lives on earth. How shall we live the remainder of our lives? Laying up for ourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal? Or shall we lay up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal? Where is our treasure? It is where our hearts are (cp. Matt. 6:19-21).

God's people: "...and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:13,16). Let us truly "seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1). ♥