

Identifying Our Problems And Solutions Sunday PM 03/04/18

Introduction:

There are things obviously wrong in our country, in our society, in our culture. We are having mass shootings groups, advocating the shooting of police, sexual assaults, date rape, date rape drugs, violence in some of our cities is so bad the police won't go in after dark, abortions (there have been over 60 million).

Phil Arnold in a recent lesson listed these problems.

1. Drug abuse and the opioid epidemic
2. Sexual assaults, rape
3. Porn and sexual sins
4. Epidemic of fatherless children

He spoke of the problem of not valuing human life.

I) Other Issues and Problems

A) What institution isn't being challenged today?

1. Our Government is trillions of dollars in debt
2. Legal system - problem of applying the law, what laws are to be applied, etc.
3. Law Enforcement - being over run by the number of crimes and often being made the scape goat.
4. Schools - as a country we are losing ground to other countries despite the amount of money we spend on education.

5. American family - high divorce rate, high rate of children born out of wedlock, high rate of children being reared with one parent.

B) Two comparisons

1. Those on the Titanic were either the rich, the poor, and those in between.
 - a. The rich lived in really nice cabins and enjoyed being on the top deck.
 - b. The really poor were mostly confined to the bottom of the boat. For them the trip was not so good.
 - c. The in between could enjoy the deck but not necessarily all the luxuries.
 - d. The most of the poor drowned as they were not able to escape. Of those who got on the life boats the greater percentage was rich. Those in between had some to survive but most died. Ultimately the boat sank and only a small number lived.
 - e. Percentage of those on board who survived 31%; of those 61% first class survived, 42 % of second class survived, and 24% of third class survived.
2. Judah during the days of Jeremiah.
 - a. Judah was a nation on the decline. *Jeremiah 5.15*
 - b. They had false prophets telling the people what they wanted to hear, *Jeremiah 5.31*

- c. They blamed the wrong people for their demise.
Jeremiah 8.4-7

C) The solutions being offered today are not going to work. Why?

- 1. They are not addressing the real problem but only the symptoms.
- 2. They are being political in their approach. What the people want to hear. Much like the people during the days of Jeremiah.

D) What is the problem?

- 1. A general rejection of God and His word, *Romans 1*.
- 2. An unwillingness to make the sacrifices that will make things better.
 - a. David understood the nature of a sacrifice, it is something that cost me something, *2 Samuel 24.23*.
 - b. Many of the solutions proposed today cost everyone else but me something.

II) The Lack of Value and Appreciation Causes Us To Not Make Sacrifices.

A) Families are being destroyed because of self-centeredness and the “me” mentality.

- 1. Find husbands and wives who will not make sacrifices for each other. “I will love you as long as you make me happy.” *Malachi 2.16*
- 2. “Your job is to make me happy.” *Ephesians 5*
“husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the

church, *v. 25* as their own bodies, *v. 28*, as himself, *v. 33*.

3. Parents not making sacrifices for their children.
"without natural affection" *Romans 1.31 (ASV)*
 - a. Some parents what the schools to provide all their children's needs including breakfast, lunch, and in some cases dinner.
 - b. We have a greater percentage of people walking around with \$1000 iphones and complaining about taking care of their children.
4. Children unwilling to make the sacrifice to study, One of the debates today is whether schools should give homework or not.
 - a. Many young people today expect someone to provide them with iphones, free internet service, healthcare, and even a living income without any effort on their part.

B) Religion has become a sacrificeless activity

1. We hear of convenience in religion. "Make sermons short and less frequent."
2. "Hire professionals to teach, preach, lead singing, do my singing, do my visiting, do my personal evangelism."
3. God requires us to make sacrifices, *Romans 12.1*

C) Lack of appreciation for our fellowman, *Matthew 22.37ff*

1. "You are supposed to get out of my way and make me happy."

2. If we appreciate our fellow man then we don't kill him over a pair of shoes, we won't lie about him or her, we won't desire to sleep with them or their spouse.
3. There are a lot of people who believe everybody should just get out of the way and give them what they want. When that doesn't happen then they decide to take it.
4. Sacrifices are required in living. In your marriage, in your religion, in dealing with others.

Conclusion:

God owes us nothing but He gave us His Son. Everything we have is because of the grace of God and we possess things but own nothing. How we treat others is a sign of how we treat God. This life is an interview for heaven. If we do what God says we can spend eternity with Him.