

1-17-16
UPHOLDING GOD ORDAINED LEADERSHIP

Exodus 17:8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

Exodus 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Exodus 17:10 So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exodus 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exodus 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Exodus 17:13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Exodus 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Exodus 17:15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi:

Exodus 17:16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

The Children of Israel set out on their Journey to Mount Sinai, and not long into their journey the Amalikes attacked them.. The Amalikes were descendants of Esau, Jacobs twin brother. This was a malicious and diabolical attack. The nation was young and experienced in war, tired, weary of their journey and totally caught off guard. It was a miracle they were able to ward off the attack.

So low a blow was this unprovoked and unjustified attack against the nation that God pronounced this judgment against Amalek..

Exodus 17:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

Later the Lord told Saul to totally destroy the Amalikes. As you know, he disobeyed that command.. Then many, many, years later it was Haman a descendent of Amalek that tried to destroy the vulnerable nation in the days of King Ahasuerus and Esther.

So we first read about Moses' helper Joshua in this account. Joshua was told to go and lead the army while Moses went to a mountain to provide prayer support. Moses, being very old at the time, would not have been much help on the battle field.

Here we have Israel, unprepared for battle, and they had no battle array, no national flag, no trained troops. The only thing they had was Moses and his rod. So they looked to Moses for leadership and strength....

Moses held out the Rod of God as their flag and as long as the Rod was held up Israel prevailed, and when he got tired and dropped the rod the Amalikes prevailed.

Adonai Nissi = The Lord my banner or, Moses, recognizing that the Lord was Israel's banner under which they defeated the Amalekites, builds an altar named Jehovah-Nissi (the Lord our Banner). Nes is sometimes translated as a pole with an insignia attached. In battle opposing nations would fly their own flag on a pole at each of their respective front lines. This was to give their soldiers a feeling of hope and a focal point. This is what God is to us: a banner of encouragement to give us hope and a focal point.

What was Israel's banner? The Rod of God in this case.. when that banner which represented the Lord was held up they were victorious.. when it was lowered.. they were defeated..

Symbols are very important to morale in time of war..

What a great symbol it was when our men raised the flag on Iwo Jima
What kind of banners do we have?

Exodus 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Exodus 17:13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Lessons to learn from this account of Moses and Holding up of his Rod..

The Rod is a symbol of leadership and authority ..

Psalms 23:1 {A Psalm of David.} The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Moses was a Shepherd, just like David was a Shepherd.. Just like David fought God's battles with the weapons he was familiar with, so Moses also fought God's battle with familiar weapons.. The Shepherds Rod for Moses, the Shepherd Sling Shot for David.

The weapons that God gives us are foolish to the world.

Amalek is symbolic of the world. We are at war with the world.. and the world is at war with us.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS WE NEED TO LEARN FROM THIS ACCOUNT?

I. GOD LEADS AND BRINGS SPIRITUAL VICTORY THROUGH HIS ORDAINED LEADERS

Moses was not able to do what Joshua and these younger men were able to do but they could not do it without the leadership of Moses...

It is easy to sway out from under Authority .. and do your own thing..

GOD NEVER BLESSES REBELLION..

Now, as I see it, there is a famine of leadership in our nation today. Why is this?

1. LEADERSHIP IS SUSPECT TODAY...

The media is on a witch hunt for anyone who stands in a position as a role model. To be a leader these days is to be scrutinized and called into question..

Police officers are being shot at every day and nothing is said..

They risk their lives almost every day to answer domestic violence calls..

Take the officer in Philadelphia that was shot at by that Muslim in the name of Allah..

This shooting happened almost immediately after Obama's emotional speech about the need for executive action for gun control

I think mayor Jim Kenney, not even knowing the facts, made a statement saying, "There are just too many guns on the streets and I think our national government needs to do something about that."

What he didn't realize was that the suspect's gun, a 9mm Glock 17, had been stolen from one of his own policeman in 2013.

Fox news reported

Mayor Kenney dug himself in even deeper, contending that the crime had nothing to do with Muslims or Islam, "In no way, shape or form does anyone in this room believe that Islam or the teaching of Islam has anything to do with what you have seen on that screen." Then he turned the press over to Police Commissioner Richard Ross who directly contradicted the mayor's fantastical account: He said the shooter confessed that he committed the act in the name of Islam and had pledged allegiance to ISIS.

France has far more stringent gun control laws than our nation and that has not stopped terrorists from getting guns..

Germany has even stricter gun control laws and terrorists have no problem getting guns..

Anytime a police officer exerts what the media thinks is excessive force on a criminal it has non stop coverage.. you never hear the end of it..

Again the mentality of the day.. Authority is suspect..

The Bible says just the opposite..

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

Romans 13:3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

Romans 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Romans 13:5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

2. WHY IS THERE SUCH A DISDAIN FOR AUTHORITY IN OUR DAY?

I believe that there is a disdain for authority because of the way people grow up..

The first two authorities that every person is introduced to is that of a MOTHER AND A FATHER..

in Southeast Washington, 1 in 10 children live with both parents, and 84 percent live with only their mother.

Baltimore, 38 percent of families have two parents, and in St. Louis the portion is 40 percent.

Among blacks, nearly 5 million children, or 54 percent, live with only their mother. Twelve percent of black families below the poverty line have two parents present, compared with 41 percent of impoverished Hispanic families and 32 percent of poor white families.

The first concept of authority and ultimately God as the supreme authority that an child gets, he gets from his parents.

When a Father abandons his child, that child often grows up with a warped sense of fatherhood.. When the Bible says pray to God as OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN.. a child that has been abandoned by their earthly father does not get a warm fuzzy feeling about the concept of the father providing for their needs.

Divorce almost always upsets a healthy sense of authority in a child's mind.. The reason for this is because 90% of the time the woman gets custody of the children and if there is a divorce there has to be negative feelings about the husband by the wife. Inevitably those feelings are going to be passed on to the children, once again alienating them from the father.

This is why the Lord says,

Malachi 2:16 For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away:

...and why does he hate divorce?

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? *That he might seek a godly seed.* Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

God hates divorce .. that is, the act, not the people themselves.. because of how it often cripples the children spiritually.

Years ago, before people would divorce, they would think about their children. You would hear someone say, "I am not happily married but I stay married for the sake of my children." Then along comes the humanist psychologist saying, "if you are not happy you should do something about it.." meaning leave him or leave her..

A while ago I was counseling someone who wanted to leave his wife.. the contention was he no longer loved his wife. The love was gone! I said, "Can you not sacrifice, by staying married and put your happiness on the altar for the sake of your children?" Think about it. Jesus sacrificed His life for us! But this type of old fashioned sacrifice has gone out the window. Look at the abortion rate as an example of the unnatural unwillingness to sacrifice, for the most basic function of a female.. Even animals will give their lives to protect their young, while our society glorifies, in the name of choice and women's rights, the unnatural action of throwing away their children.

This is the real issue of immigration. Our politicians have sacrificed our workforce on the Altar of selfish human choices for the sake of votes. In turn the average family in America is not even reproducing themselves. The average size family in America is not even four last time I checked. All the while, the Mexicans and the Muslims are multiplying like rabbits. No one is honest enough to admit it, but people need workers to work below \$10.00 an hour and do jobs that our children are unwilling, or too lazy to do because mom and dad are providing everything they need! So out of one side of our mouth we say we need to do something about immigration while the politicians and people of means hire illegals to clean their houses...

Psalms 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

Psalms 127:5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

So a perverted dysfunctional family is the greatest reason we are rearing up a populace that has a disdain for authority. If the police officer says, drop the gun (whether squirt gun, bb gun, or chewing gum.. and the brat shouts back cursing and railing.. the young lady kicks and slaps the officer, the young man stands defiant thinking he is RAMBO and then after 17 times of saying drop the gun we are shocked that a young man is shot. So we investigate, look at a hundred videos, and question what went wrong, yet never saying .. where is dad? And if anyone stands for traditional family and moral values, investigations are launched to see any inconsistency in their life so this nagging voice trying to awake a moral conscience will be brought to its knees because the message must be annulled. At the same time, people smile and joke about rock stars' immorality, Hollywood stars' perversions, and liberal politicians who have turned our white house into a house of scandals.. But all that is ok because they do not rally behind traditional moral values or proclaim a need to strengthen the traditional family structure. And they embrace everyone as being ok!

Years ago our nation would never consider for president any candidate that came from a dysfunctional family. Today it seems the norm and the media lauds them! And why is this? It is because over 50% of the voters have come from dysfunctional families and don't know anything else.

Is it any wonder that the Bible gives this end time prediction..

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The earth is under a curse and it is going to take God himself to get us out of it!

So the first lesson we need to learn is that God's ordained authority should be respected and when it is not respected we will lose the battle against the ungodly Amalikites of this world!

THE SECOND LESSON WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS ACCOUNT IS THAT...

II. EVERY GOD ORDAINED LEADER IS HUMAN AND WEAK - THEIR AUTHORITY IS GIVEN OF GOD AND NOT BASED IN THEIR OWN STRENGTH..

Moses was just a man whose arms got weak..

Exodus 17:11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

Exodus 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

1. Every God ordained leader has weaknesses and frailities

I went to a Pastor's conference where a famous preacher said don't let the people in your church see that you have feet of clay. Well that is easier said than done .. because if you are working and fighting together they are going to see you are only human and you have faults and weaknesses like anyone else.

Anyone in authority can make a mistake..

It is a twist in the mindset of society that accepts that the hoodlum on the street can make a mistake but not the police!

I remember years ago in Pastoral Counseling class my professor was telling a story about something that happened in his house years ago. He said it was late one night and he heard someone rattling the door downstairs.. his wife was alarmed and told him that she thought someone broke into the house. He said he grabbed something heavy to hit the intruder .. so he crept downstairs and heard someone messing around with the door ... so he hid behind a side wall with a heavy metal vase that he took off the bedroom dresser. He said it was dark and he heard the intruder tip toeing through the house and as he was about to come around the corner.. what would you do..

I sad hit hit him..

He said just then I heart a voice and it said Dad.. Dad..

It was his son who thought to surprise them by coming home early from college. He was supposed to come home a week later but he got his work done early and never called, thinking to surprise them!

I thought to my self what if someone had a gun and made the wrong decision. I never forgot that illustration...

But the point was that as Pastor's we can do a lot of harm by jumping the gun..

There are a lot of people that have mistakenly hurt people in their family because of a wrong decision..

And there are many who in a moment of weakness who have made bad decisions
Pastors can jump the gun..
Parents can jump the gun..
Moms can jump the gun..

Moses hands got weary and heavy and he was weak.. and if we expect our leaders to be perfect we are foolish

The answer is not to have perfect leaders..
The answer is to have a group of followers who will support the leader in his weakness..

III. GOD'S PEOPLE NEED TO HOLD UP GOD ORDAINED AUTHORITY
The Rod Symbolizes that authority God's Shepherd!
Aaron and Hur had to uphold Mose's frail hands..

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THE ROD SYMBOLIZES GOD ORDAINED AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY ..

It was called God's rod..

This is all symbolic!

So the Pastor has been delegated his authority from God himself!

All those in Authority need to take the Rod of God in their Frail hands

As we uphold the authority that God has delegated to us.. we need others who will uphold that authority as unto the Lord..

Moses did not lift up his hands..

He lifted up the Rod of God..

His hands got weak and tired and when he let down the rod the enemy prevailed, when he lifted up the rod God's people prevailed!

So for God's people to win.. along comes Aaron and Hur and help Moses

Moses being over 80 years old could not do it alone ..

Aaron and Hur put a stone under him so he could sit up high
They then stand next to him one on the right and the other on the left to uphold his hands so he could hold the rod out

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Exodus 17:12 But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

1. FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO WIN OVER THEIR ENEMIES THEY NEEDED TO UPHOLD GOD ORDAINED LEADERSHIP

MOSES WAS NOT CRITICIZED FOR HIS WEAKNESSES!

If you look hard enough you can find fault with any man!

We need strong authority to defeat our enemies and the enemies of God!

If we cannot follow God ordained human authority that we can see..
What makes you think you would follow the God of Heaven who you can't see!

We learn to fear God and Obey God by first honoring, hearing, and obeying our parents!

My earthly dad had a lot of faults but I never magnify his faults, I just remember his strengths and that is the way every child should be..

When a child magnifies the faults of the parents that is unhealthy and abnormal..

I tell the story of how a friend of mine, as we walked home together from school one day said his brother was studying this thing called Karate and he could break bricks with his bare hands.

I said he can not
He said he can too
I said he can not
He said he can too..
Then I pushed him and I said he cannot
Then he pushed me and said he can too..

Then I pushed him to the ground and said he can't he can't
Then he said all right all right let me up ..

You see what he said to me was fighting words .. and you know why..
Because I knew my father couldn't break bricks with his bare hands and if my father couldn't, no one could! That's the way I thought when I was a kid because in my mind my father was great, even though his hands got weak and at times let down the rod of authority every kid thinks his dad is the greatest.. That is normal! That is the way it is suppose to be .. that is healthy..

That is what produces a society with a good sense of Authority!

We need to uphold authority and not tear it down.

Before the Korean war and the Vietnam war our nation did not lose wars.. then after the hippy generation we started to lose wars. The reason being we started to put our authorities down..

WE CANNOT WIN AGAINST OUR ENEMIES AS LONG AS WE DO NOT UPHOLD OUR AUTHORITIES!

Alexander the Great was a great leader because he knew the power of having men who would unconditionally follow him...

**EXAMPLE OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT-MEN WHOSE
MEN WOULD DIE FOR HIM**

In 331 B.C. Alexander the Great marched towards India with his armies. Alexander had already conquered much of the known world, and he would stop at nothing to have it all. Alexander was a strong leader, and every soldier was willing to follow him, no matter what the cost.

Alexander the Great had a strong campaign to take over the world, yet encountered some difficulty upon the arrival at a certain walled city. As Alexander approached the great city, he peered up towards the King who stood firm upon the stone wall and shouted: "My name is Alexander the Great, and I demand you surrender immediately!" Laughing, the King asked, "Why should we surrender to you?" He then proceeded to explain how they outnumbered Alexander's troops, and they were more than prepared to defend the city.

In response, Alexander turned to his 100 choice troops and commanded them to line up in perfect order facing the cliff. Each did so obediently in respect for their leader. Alexander then ordered them to start moving. One by one they began marching toward the edge of the cliff. The first soldier stepped off the cliff and plummeted to his death, as did the second, third, fourth , until the eleventh man.

When Alexander finally yelled, "HALT!", he gazed back at the King who was completely astonished by the obedience of the men-and the utter respect they had for Alexander. He surrendered immediately, and Alexander went on to conquer the civilized world.

2. GOD EXPECTS PEOPLE TO RESPECT THEIR GOD ORDAINED HUMAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE SAME RESPECT THEY WOULD HAVE FOR HIM..

Husbands Obey Your Authorities:

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Wives Obey Your Authorities

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

Children Obey your God Ordained Authority

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

Notice in the LORD In the LORD..

You do it as unto the Lord and not as unto some human authority ..

When Samuel heard the voice of God late at night the voice sounded like Eli's voice.. his human authority ..

LISTEN CLOSE.. OPEN YOUR EARS.. TO WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY..

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOUR GOD ORDAINED HUMAN AUTHORITY AND VOICE YOU NEVER WILL HEAR GOD'S VOICE..

LET ME REPEAT IT

IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO YOUR GOD ORDAINED HUMAN AUTHORITY AND VOICE YOU NEVER WILL HEAR GOD'S VOICE..

And Dad's - make sure you don't pervert in the minds of your children the voice of God.. They are looking to you.. as a reflection of God make sure that reflection is not distorted!

For instance, here is a verse in the Bible that is going to shock you but it is in the Bible and what it says needs to be interpreted in light of what I have preached!

The Lord spoke to Moses when he called him to be a prophet and His spokesman and here is what he said

Exodus 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Now Moses was God's spokesman and God said, Moses you will represent me before Pharaoh . So in this respect I have made you stand in the place of me before Pharaoh. I have made thee a "god" to Pharaoh...

Jesus quoted this verse justifying His authority and claim to be the Son of God .. being in essence GOD IN THE FLESH. The Jews knew what he claimed and sought to stone him for blasphemy in their minds. Yet Jesus says the following

John 10:33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?

John 10:35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

John 10:36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

One understanding of Exodus 22:28 is that God expected the same respect for the rulers he ordained over God's people as he would expect people to respect Himself. So we read this command..

Exodus 22:28 Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

Some people think that this verse actually means you should not revile those who represent God.. as the God ordained rulers

How you treat God ordained leadership is how you treat God.. This is not to say that men should be placed in an equal seat with God. It just means that if God ordained leadership we should honor that leadership because in so doing it is honoring God!

Again, how can you say you would obey God who you can't see if you would not honor and respect God ordained leadership who you can see..

Consider the lessons we should learn:

- I. GOD HAS ORDAINED MEN TO REPRESENT HIM IN THIS WORLD
THIS IS GOD ORDAINED AUTHORITY**
- II. EVERY GOD ORDAINED LEADER HAS WEAKNESSES BUT THIS DOES NOT
NEGATE THE AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO THEM**
- III. TO GAIN THE VICTORY OVER THE ENEMIES OF GOD WE NEED TO UPHOLD GOD
ORDAINED LEADERS AND UPHOLD THEIR LEADERSHIP. WE ARE CO-WORKERS
AND LABOURERS**
- IV. GOD ORDAINED LEADERS ARE GOING TO BE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD
AND SUCH A CALL SHOULD NOT BE SOUGHT AFTER FLIPPANTLY**

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

It is the responsibility of God Ordained Leaders To Uphold The Rod (authority) of God

Remember Moses misrepresented God when he struck the Rock instead of speaking to it! This was at the waters of Meribah

In Exodus 17:5-7 Moses was told to Take the rod of God and strike the rock to bring water..

BUT MANY YEARS LATTER THE LORD TOLD MOSES TO SPEAK TO THE ROCK:

Numbers 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Numbers 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

Numbers 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Numbers 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

Numbers 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Numbers 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Numbers 20:13 This is the water of Meribah, because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

Moses got angry at the people and forgot what he was supposed to do. Instead of speaking to the rock he struck it twice. That was a misrepresentation of the Lord .. For the rock is Christ and he was stricken only once for the sins of the people. Today we need not crucify him over and over like some churches do who sacrifice him again in what they call a MASS.. Christ died once and for all for the sins of the world.

But notice the people still got the water from the Rock.

People often wonder how it is that God could bless a ministry with a leader who obviously has done wrong things. Here is an example of God blessing in spite of the leaders faults. The people still got the water...

How many spiritual leaders are now striking the rock again and again in an effort to satisfy the thirst of the people.

A pastor and leader is held to a higher standard, but that leader's judge is the Lord Himself and not the followers. In fact, when the followers rebel against God given authority they receive judgment..

David was a perfect example of how to deal with a leader that has gotten out of the will of God. David supported Saul even when he was trying to kill him. David said:

I Samuel 26:11 The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against the LORD'S anointed: but, I pray thee, take thou now the spear that is at his bolster, and the cruse of water, and let us go.

Conclusion:

For the most part our Churches are like the Laodacian church of the book of Revelation .. Churches that have Jesus on the outside looking in. Churches run by the laity. The Pastors are just hired guns who are dispensable .. Those who pull the purse strings of the church are the ones who have the say. I would rather Pastor a church of 10 people who love the Lord than a thousand Laodacian Christians who say, "I am rich and in need of nothing.."

Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:
Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.