

A Sermon on Interpretation

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for July 2nd, 2023 (and beyond)

This week's sermon is in dialogue format. Meditate at will.

DIALOGUE

Vatican: Jesus suffered terribly and died for your salvation. What do you offer him? We're his collectors.

Angela: Sounds like extortion or at least a #StrawMan and potential Spanish Prisoner con. You are suggesting I'm responsible for Jesus' suffering and death. I am not responsible for that. You are making a false claim followed by suggesting I owe a debt to one who supposedly forgave or assumed it per your own statement.

Vatican: Let me tell you his story. Now, what do you offer him who has done so much for you? For most of the history of the church tithing was mandatory, not optional like in present day US. Collections were made by force.

Angela: So, I have no contractual obligation as a matter of law and I'm already saved if what you say about Jesus is true. Based on his story AKA the Gospels, I don't believe he would expect payment and as a matter of law the statutes of limitation have long passed for anyone who may have ever owed him anything in life. I'm a generous soul. I'm inspired by his story. I'll support the death penalty for those convicted of rape and human trafficking. I believe that's the best way to honor his memory and serve his cause. I'll feed the hungry and help the homeless too, I already do that. I'll go further and help bring liars/frauds, rapists, and human traffickers to justice to the extent I can help as a matter of law.

Vatican: Your message will not be delivered. The only way to get a message of thanks or fealty to Jesus is to give me money, tell me your worst secrets, and then keep serving me and giving me money because now I know all your secrets.

Angela: It sounds like extortion again. Jesus said if I ran into one of you I should just say I never heard of him. Well, he said it to one of his disciples. He said to deny it even if asked more than once. Judas blabbed and couldn't live with himself. So, I never heard of him and Matthew 6:5-8.

Vatican: So, he told you to lie? That doesn't sound like Jesus.

Angela: It's in the gospels though. Luke 22:31-62. If Peter doesn't deny Jesus when asked, he proves Jesus is a liar and a false prophet by failing to fulfill the prophecy of the denial. If Peter does deny Jesus, he fulfills Jesus' prophecy. So, he denied Jesus for Jesus' sake, not his own. As such, I read Peter as saying one should deny Jesus to fulfill Jesus' prophecy.

Vatican: So Peter didn't need to repent because he was just following orders according to your interpretation?

Angela: In the event Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, I believe it would behoove Peter to deny Jesus and fulfill the prophecy because to do otherwise would be the worse denial in full context unless the purpose of Peter's repentance is itself evidence of false prophecy in which case he should have stuck with the denial per Jesus' prophecy proving Jesus is who he says he is by so fulfilling.

Vatican: Your position as a Christian is that denying Jesus is fulfilling his prophecy?

Angela: I'm not an idolater, nor was Jesus, and liar's self-negate. Since we're on the topic of the Power of Suggestion and self-fulfilling prophecy, do you believe that the fact many believe the book of Revelation is a prophecy as reported by John the Elder of Ephesus in 96 CE regarding Jesus' return and it means that the purpose of the Vatican is to repeatedly unleash pestilence (disease/COVID 19), famine (economic collapse), war (wars and rumors of wars), and finally death or mass genocide to bring about the second coming?

Vatican: If the Holy Bible says so, because it is the only way to restore Paradise on earth. Yes, Fauci's one of ours and two for one because the lockdowns from pestilence caused near economic collapse. If we don't, then our entire faith is based on false prophecy and that's just not possible.

Angela: Matthew 19:26. Genesis 1:26 (particularly polytheist and revealing that two people believing themselves to be deities saw their children as deities as well). And, what they say goes or else the kids are old enough to live on their own regardless of who they met at the last Saturnalia. The issue here is with prophecy. Jesus foretold Peter's denial. Matthew 26:31-35. Peter fulfills Jesus' prophecy by so denying because to do otherwise would prove Jesus to be a false prophet. Luke 22:54-62. According to Protestant English Theologian Leslie D. Weatherhead, faith is trust and blind trust lacks wisdom. However, the suspension of disbelief and/or blind faith is required or expected by some. I find it wholly reckless, dangerous, and arguably evil to suggest people have blind faith in teachings that claim to foretell the future where, according to the historical record that is the Holy Bible, such is pre-determined therefore no one is ultimately responsible for anything they do because it is all part of God's plan. As God's son, Jesus foretold the future when he prophesied that Peter would deny him. The book itself confirms he did so deny. But, it was because he was told to do so and would be deviating from God's plan to fail to fulfill the prophecy. Then, we have the Book of Revelation, which also claims to be a foretelling of the future involving the end of the world that begins with pestilence and ends in death with famine and war in-between. So, some are logically interpreting the Holy Bible as a playbook to make way for the second coming by spreading disease, threatening food supplies, spreading rumors and starting wars, and killing/culling the human population. While that is one of the most perverse interpretations, it does seem extremist groups identifying as Catholic and/or Christian adopt that very position. It is a beyond hypocritical position and in that way negates

Jesus' teaching from my perspective. But, it appears to present quite a loophole for those who would misinterpret believing genocide is God's plan or part of it. I can't get behind that and am glad someone made it public so we could all find out exactly what is driving the madness when it comes to discriminatory and genocidal practices influenced or led by those claiming moral superiority which is impossible where they have no moral compass evidenced by such an interpretation of scripture.

Vatican: Everyone is guilty of original sin except the Pope who is infallible. And, all clergy have the power to absolve according to canonical law. But, there's arguably no reason for it because everything is planned by God in advance and everything that is foretold in scripture will come to pass. Christianity means different things to different people. Some define Christian as meaning human or mortal. Some define Christian as those in service of Jesus and God. Those who define it as meaning human or mortal, do so as a slur or insult.

Angela: Pope Pius XII and the last Pope (Pope Benedict) were Nazis. I suggest you read "End Of Days" by Brad Taylor. I'm "Team Free Will" which is a "Supernatural" (CW television series) reference. And, I accept full responsibility for my actions and trust my actual peers to judge me if and whenever necessary to do so. I will protest the Book of Revelation if I need to do that. At the moment, as much as I dislike book burning, I'd like that book burned or removed from the Holy Bible. Our actions are up to us, not John the Elder of Ephesus whether he likes it or not. I declare John the Elder of Ephesus to be a false prophet and a likely extremist that would be identified at least as a terrorist suspect in the modern era. As a way to understand the thinking behind the extremism or evidence of that, I think the Book of Revelation can be kept as long as no one believes it is a prophecy nor any kind of directive or game plan necessary to fulfill to bring about the second coming. That needs to be made absolutely clear to everyone.

Vatican: Is that what they call a Straw Man argument? That question is purely rhetorical.

Angela: That's one to meditate on I guess.

END DIALOGUE

MEDITATIVE QUESTIONS:

Were the Nazis directed by the Catholic Order/Knights of Malta?

Was the Order of Malta established by the Medici Family including Machiavelli?

Which Saint John are they following? Is it John the Baptist or John of Ephesus?

Do they claim one while really serving the other in a duplicitous Machiavellian fashion?

Is the Book of Revelation a prophecy that must be fulfilled to make way for the second coming?

Did WWII fulfill the prophecy of the Book of Revelation?

Did Jesus' prophecy that Peter would deny him come to pass?

If Peter hadn't fulfilled Jesus' prophecy, would that prove Jesus to be a false prophet?

Should Peter have repented if it was all God's plan?

If it is all God's plan, is God ultimately the only one to credit for everything including good and evil?

Is everything predestined or does free will exist?

If the Nazis believed they were doing God's will and/or in no position to question authority at the time, should Respondeat Superior apply to their actions where their commander is held accountable for all evils or sins committed under his command?

Do you believe they believed they were doing God's will in fulfilling the Book of Revelation?

Do you believe they were actually doing God's will in light of full context or additional context?

If you believe they believed they were doing God's will, did they lack the mens rea necessary to be guilty at law?

If you believe they believed they were doing God's will, did they sin?

FINAL COMMENT: Happy 4th of July/Independence Day! Individual liberties include Freedom of religion and expression!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

