

## A Sermon on Being a Messenger in Good Faith

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for December 27th, 2020 (and beyond)

Jesus said (Luke 6:31 Wycliffe Bible): "And as ye wolen that men do to you, do ye also to hem in lijk maner." Translated from Middle English by Rev. Smith "And, as you would have people do to you, do you also to them in like manner or likewise.") The assumption often made here, though arguably intellectually dishonest so responding in kind at times, is that if you are dishonest and/or vicious a Christian will see that as evidence of how you wish to be treated so will respond with wrath as the only vice God claims in the Bible. The message in such instances being "I assume you are Christian or of good faith so when you are dishonest and vicious the Bible suggests that's how you wish to be treated and as a good Christian I try to accommodate without violating my own principles and with full awareness of Matthew 5:37 (KJV): " But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." The Wycliffe Matthew 5:37 reads: "But be youre word, Yhe, yhe; Nay, nay; and that that is more than these, is of yuel." So, in the Wycliffe translation (by Rev. Angela Smith) from middle English to modern, "But be of your word, yes means yes, no means no, and that which is not true is of evil."

So, you may better understand now why the 8th Commandment and commitment to Truth (including honesty and intellectual honesty) is the cornerstone of COPE. Some people can't handle the truth, usually they are considered possessed by demonic spirits if particularly superstitious or suffering delusions if diagnosed with mental illness because they honestly don't know what is true and what is false. Being unable to determine whether something is right or wrong (i.e. true or false) when accused of a crime (secularly legally actionable sin in religious terms) is the basis on which defendants are judged to be incompetent at law and requiring permanent institutionalization until they can recognize the difference between right and wrong (i.e. true or false). The best way to protect yourself from being stripped of the rights afforded to you at law (secular/public) is to be responsible enough that you act in good faith so don't raise the question of whether you are incompetent or not to those who see that as a public threat and wish to minimize its impact on the rest of society without terminating your life or any chance you may have again of having freedom with responsibility of good faith in the future. Those who choose willful blindness (can know the law and/or good faith (truth and virtue) but choose not to learn it) have no excuse and are often referred to as malignant narcissists with criminal minds in secular terms or the spawn of Satan in some more superstitious circles.

That being said, this particular sermon is intended for activists and/or advocates of any social position or cause involving controversy. If you don't have a clear message with something the public should reasonably be expected to do or where the public can reasonably assist, you don't need media attention and aren't achieving anything for the greater good nor to serve your actual cause with it when you get it.

If something is already a crime or tort with remedies available at law, then pursue it or assist victims who are within the statute of limitations with pursuing it through the justice

system. Any criminal cases or public lawsuits will likely be covered by the media and you can raise awareness at that time through media attention.

If something is not already a crime or tort that you believe should have a remedy available at law where you know for a fact one does not exist, then that's when you look into speaking to legislators and only after you've considered what the legislators will consider (including your equal fellow citizens who may disagree with you and their position on the matter, how much it may cost to implement and enforce, and whether the issue is addressed in other areas of law or regulatory policy).

If something is legal and something you personally disagree with, then you are a prohibitionist and seeking to restrict the freedoms of others through new laws and regulations. So, where someone seeks to ban something you appreciate that is currently legal, you may understand your opposition to such a ban is similar to any opposition you might face when trying to ban something that is currently legal (i.e. non-vegan items).

And, where the justice system and legislation, in a government where the people govern and are trusted to self-govern and help govern by participating and free market choices, aren't doing enough in your opinion to prevent crimes and torts or address them through proper reporting and pursuing justice effectively, as part of the government you can spread the word to Divest and Boycott to potentially shut down entities that offend you (and/or others) operating in the free market.

So, as an activist/advocate, your messaging is important. And, if your message isn't clearly stated, I think you are stupid and/or a narcissism cult disguised as a righteous cause. If there are remedies available at law to address your grievances or the grievances of those you assist, filing complaints through proper procedure is the way to address that and the media will cover arrests, lawsuits, and the like when they occur. So, you'll get press that is deserved with a greater impact because the power of the justice system is backing the claims made where there is sufficient evidence for criminal or civil recovery at law.

If there aren't remedies available at law and you are seeking the government to ban something that is currently legal, likely going to go with both Divest and Boycott as well as pushing for the ban through the legislature. But, the government considers many factors (including the fact that 99.5% of the US is not vegan and only 0.5% is vegan so in a democracy likely going with the 99.5% position rather than the 0.5% because all people (human beings) are equal in the eyes of the law unless deemed incompetent at law and then likely same fate as nonhuman animals in many cases also recognized as incompetent at law with exception they won't be eaten) and if you fail to do that then you will be repeatedly disappointed as you keep trying where you haven't persuaded the majority in the free market to adopt your position.

Fortunately for HEAL Mission and COPE, victims and survivors of torts and crimes already have remedies available at law through the justice system if pursued within the statute of limitations. In addition, reporting to regulatory bodies and agencies can result

in sanctioning, suspending the license, or revoking the license of an offending entity where a business is involved. And, for the public, where such penalties have not effectively shut down entities arguably "too big to fail" (i.e. UHS, Inc which is a multi-national/multi-billion dollar company that has been fined to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars by the US Department of Justice though it hasn't shut them down), the HEAL Mission watch-list acts to inform so the free market can Divest and Boycott to protect themselves and support the victims/survivors who know the offenders have been penalized but not condemned because the US Justice System is merciful. So, that's where activists come in to say "that's too merciful though in full context and people should really avoid doing business with known offending business entities that have been in repeat trouble for fraud and abuse so as a representative of the free market I call for all to Divest and Boycott while providing my reasons for it which include protecting the public".

If you are an activist seeking media attention and don't have an official complaint being actively pursued by the government, then you wish for others to Divest and Boycott and that's the limitation on your power as equal to all others in the free market outside of official government authority. Your unofficial government authority is limited to calling for others to join you in Divesting and Boycotting while providing your reasons they should join in that effort. So, instead of demanding the government just shut down an offending entity through public outcries without pursuing it properly so the government can open an investigation and potentially shut it down, I advise all to recommend Divesting and Boycotting an entity that has offended or harmed you while providing a reasonable basis for others to join such a campaign which may include investigative reporting on offenders so consumers make better informed choices or have that opportunity as a result of your efforts.

If your message is "Ouch, they are mean, waahhhhh, media tell the government to do something", even if you say it with more mature language and tone, that's not activism and suggests developmental disability or malignant narcissism. [And, those who approach activism that way are exhibiting deimatic behavior in assuming authority to delegate their own actual authority and right to pursue justice to the media/public rather than exercise said individual rights and authority by pursuing justice through proper channels and law/regulatory enforcement agencies/departments. Pursuing justice through proper channels often requires paperwork, meetings with attorneys (i.e. prosecutors), and testifying in court within the statute of limitations for your cause(s) of action. It is an inferiority complex of internal disbelief of one's own legal rights and authority manifesting as a superiority complex in directing others to do what only you have standing to do in regards to harms done to you and recovery at law when you seek media attention and public/legislative action rather than justice where the harm done is legally actionable. Laws exist.] The youngest child to testify against their abuser was 3-years old. Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/three-year-old-becomes-youngest-trial-witness-6261012.html> So, the rest of the world knows this or can know it. So, while you may get some sympathy when sharing your pain, that's not activism unless it inadvertently results in someone divesting and boycotting your abuser or the entity that caused you harm. But, if you are prepared to say "I'm happy to share the reason for my

call to Divest and Boycott this entity that caused me harm and I reasonably believe is harming others or will if given the opportunity" every time you get media attention, then, I'll respect that you recognize how to reasonably give the public something they can do such as divest and boycott which is what would make it a cause and not just a human interest story.

HEAL Mission and the COPE Conversion Program is a cause with human interest components. But, human interest isn't the cause, human rights are the cause. And, where human rights have been violated in a legally actionable manner, pursuing it through the justice system or official regulatory process (yes, that means actually filing complaints and possibly going to hearings to testify) is how to shut the offenders down in most cases and the virtual cemetery at <http://www.beyondbusiness.net/youarenext.htm> confirms this because many of those closed as a result of official government (referring to Justice System, Law Enforcement, and Civil Regulatory Enforcement bodies) action with our support and cooperation. For those too big to fail or who just cross state lines and keep up their bullshit when shut down in another state, there are watch-lists and Divest and Boycott campaigns to inform the public so anyone considering doing business with an offender has the opportunity to make an informed decision where the offender engages in deceptive marketing, fraud, and other abuses.

Whatever you do in the name of any righteous cause, be prepared to be responded to in kind and if you don't want house visit protests of your controversial tactics, don't do that to others. Limit your protest or actions to actions you would reasonably tolerate if someone disagreed with or opposed you. If someone showed up to your home (i.e. protest of Tucker Carlson) and threatened (or you reasonably found their actions threatening to) you, would you call the police? I did. I called the police when I lived in SeaTac and a man I believe worked for one of the entities on the watch-list was banging on my windows and doors while threatening to kill me very loudly. This happened around the time I was served with the bogus SLAPP suit by UHS Inc. He ran off before the police arrived. I said I was calling the police and went to a window near the door and windows he was banging and yelled through the glass while holding the phone that I was calling the police. The police arrived about 20 minutes later. I told them the direction the person went in and my neighbor who saw everything also gave a description and statement. So, as a result I know I don't like when people protest or threaten me anywhere, but, especially at home. And, so I don't do house visit protests/private individual home protests both because I dislike it and would think it is hypocritical to do it where I'd call the cops on someone who did it to me and stupid to think the cops won't be called if I do it to someone else.

The rest is up to you and whether you decide to be a good faith messenger or not. If you are or choose to be, remember if you can't be honest about it, you shouldn't do it. That's a really great basic rule to live by to keep yourself out of trouble and those around you agreeing you have a righteous cause. The guy who harassed me at my house didn't go online to brag about terrorizing me nor identify himself to the media proudly as the one who did it. I assume now that it is in part because he knew his actions were in no way justified or justifiable. But, I don't know for sure other than he hasn't bothered me since I

called the cops and the cops showed up. I support law enforcement and the US Justice System which is more merciful than activists even when we have a righteous cause. It inspires me to be more merciful. Yes, I just said that. God bless you!

And, December 31st is John Wycliffe Day since it is the anniversary of his death and on John Wycliffe Day we celebrate his life by fact-checking. Learn more about COPE Holidays at <https://www.cope.church/holidays.pdf> . Have a great John Wycliffe Day!

To get started or continue with #TaoFu Self-Defense, exercises are available at <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> .

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.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>