

## A Sermon on Money

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for March 20th, 2022 (and beyond)

The entire human population on earth in 2022 is 7,900,000,000. The entire global domestic product for 2020 in American dollars was \$84,971,650,000,000. To begin splitting the global domestic product evenly among the entire human population right now, we'd all begin at receiving \$10,755.90 gross and then likely deductions for personal expenses and/or taxes. But, in US if you earn \$12,550 or less, you don't have to file income tax returns with the IRS. In Washington State, the current minimum wage is \$14.49/hour. If you worked 160 hours per month at that wage, your gross wages would be \$27,820.80 and after income taxes would be \$24,058. That is more than double your equitable share according to those who believe in equally sharing abundance without equally sharing the responsibility. But, if you believe in equity and earn a full-time minimum wage in Washington State, you should be donating \$13,302.10 to charities such as free/sliding scale hospitals and health clinics, housing charities, and food banks or similar services. If you want to go global, Doctors Without Borders is one idea. Or, stay local with Feeding America. Of course, that's only if you believe in equity.

Now, we can all live in poverty knowing many of us will die and more than would under current global conditions, or we can all live within our means while understanding most of the world does care enough but getting everyone what they need is a lot of work so if people showed some initiative too by contributing to the economy rather than solely seeking contributions from others, we might all breathe a sigh of relief finding the world a more peaceful and harmonious place without war, genocide, and other atrocities.

If you are economically challenged, you can likely get Medicaid or Medicare to help cover medical expenses while also getting medical help from charitable/nonprofit hospitals and clinics. If you think there are enough "world class" physicians to treat everyone with the best possible medical care available, think again. There are 9,200,000 medical doctors in the world. Source: <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmra1111610#:~:text=Table%201%20shows%20that%20there,and%2018.1%20million%20nurses%20worldwide.&text=The%20Unite d%20States%2C%20with%204,and%2017%25%20of%20the%20nurses.> So, the math on that is one doctor for every 858.69 people. In the US, most doctors reportedly see between 11 and 20 patients per day. Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/613959/us-physicians-patients-seen-per-day/> But, 1 in 57 doctors in the US lose their license at some point though the statistic varies by state. Source: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/factchecking-waiting-for-b\\_802900](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/factchecking-waiting-for-b_802900) Being rich and/or famous doesn't protect you from dying as a result of medical malpractice. Michael Jackson, Prince, Joan Rivers, Andy Warhol, and Bill Paxton all died preventable deaths that were caused by medical malpractice according to this article and other sources: <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=2b757cd4-b633-44b3-bc31-c22450624808>. So, you can take a chance on getting medical help or choose to see if your immune system and natural healing abilities keep you alive and well enough. But, suggesting universal healthcare doesn't already exist in the US to the extent possible given many factors including the resources available to charitable hospitals or service

providers is a false narrative which fails to appreciate that charities exist and will see you sometimes with or without an appointment.

And, failure to appreciate you already likely have the option to make double your equitable share of global annual domestic product just by taking a minimum wage job in Washington State while demanding everyone else be subjugated to your will is beyond hubris and most certainly representative of the vices of greed, sloth, envy, and vanity.

The issue I feel is with parents who benignly neglect while over-compensating with material benefits. If all you have to do when a child is go to school, stay in your room, be quiet, and don't make a mess to get everything you want just for asking, then adulthood presents an extraordinarily rude awakening. Some parents teach their children about real world economics and some are malignant narcissists that delegate that responsibility to the rest of society. It doesn't have to be this way and for those of us who are willing to work but can't find gainful employment at the moment, we can struggle with entrepreneurship or volunteer for charity, possibly both depending on ability to multi-task.

We can live without rules and see who is left standing after everyone agrees we should have some rules again. We can understand rules exist for a reason and that in a social contract situation, where you are a citizen so agree to live by the laws of the land which include your right to petition for changes to said laws, that the government respects every individual citizen including you until you disrespect the law by causing harm to your fellow citizen(s). Leaving people alone is not causing them harm, it is recognizing their individual sovereignty and rights as a fellow citizen equal to you. Where that equality is not recognized, the law is offended which is why crimes are called offenses.

Many crimes can be likened to rape, but not all. If you trespass, you went where you shouldn't without consent. The same goes for breaking and entering. If you rob someone at gunpoint, that's like kidnapping and rape of property. If you steal from someone without their knowledge (i.e. grand theft auto), that's like slipping someone a date rape drug and raping them. You wake up and notice your car is gone but don't know who took it and you may have been drugged based on potential hangover, how do you feel? Do you feel confused and try to think who might have done it and wonder if you can get the car back and if so in what condition? How upset does the idea of that happening make you? Now, imagine the car as a rape victim. It is found totaled looking like frat boys took it on a joyride on game night when their team won or lost because it was just about being rowdy. How upset are you about the car and its condition? Well, if terribly upset you may understand how actual rape victims feel so just experienced a little empathy even if just imagining how awful it would be for that to happen to your car.

If you don't have a car, I empathize because I don't at this time either. I walk, take public transit, rarely take a taxi, and have loved ones who can help when needed. But, I am a rape survivor and wish people thought about it like they would if a car was stolen. If there were no permanent physical damage, would you be relieved? The closer you got to what the frat boys did to the car in the last paragraph would make you feel suicidal or

not? Do you think suing for damages in a civil suit would make you whole? Are you comfortable knowing damages for emotional distress are generally calculated based on costs of mental health services? You are outraged that your car was totaled and find it devastating because you rebuilt the engine and parts of the body yourself on weekends. How much is therapy costing you after such a loss? Nothing? If nothing, then no provable damages beyond medical, likely treble damages on that for pain and suffering, with possible punitive though that wouldn't be objective because the frat boys had no way of knowing how important the car was to you. However, in civil suits, you take the victim as you find them so if you steal from someone particularly emotional about the item stolen, expect a fight.

That's universally true. People want to keep what legally belongs to them. I know I do. And, I know when people don't respect me, I return the favor though do my best not to be too awful and just corrective with a sense of humor. If your basic needs are met, you are in great shape comparatively. If you want more than your equitable share of global domestic product, you are a capitalist and should act like it. Giving to charity is tax-deductible and that includes when giving to COPE. Check out bonus blessing opportunities and more at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . You may notice original works of art are now an option. Bless you and have a little faith that people will do the right thing if shown a little patience, taught a little economics, and encouraged to apply themselves.

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.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

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