

A Sermon on Observation, Judgment, Patience, Due Diligence and Justice  
Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for October 4th, 2020 (and beyond)

Oxford Languages via Google defines "Observation" as "the action or process of observing something or someone carefully or in order to gain information" and "a remark, statement, or comment based on something one has seen, heard, or noticed." And, Oxford Languages via Google defines "Judgment" as "the ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions" and "a misfortune or calamity viewed as a divine punishment." Similar words for "judgment" include "discernment". Discernment is defined by Oxford Languages via Google as "the ability to judge well" with similar words including "intelligence", "wisdom", and "insight". The second definition negates the idea of judgment entirely which can't reasonably be considered representing in Word that which exists in Spirit unless denouncing Luke 17:21 KJV and saying Judgment doesn't exist thereby negating one's own free will and individual responsibility for own actions. In such a case, the courts would deem you incompetent at law and you'd likely spend the rest of your life in a prison or facility that feels VERY hell-adjacent where you might not even be able to imagine there's a difference.

But, outside the US Justice System (Official Courts and Law Enforcement), I know I both observe and exercise good judgment to the best of my ability under any given circumstances. And, in hopes of clarifying the difference between observation and passing judgment, I'm going to expand on those thoughts here.

To me, observation is recognition of the existence of something or someone and achieved through learning about those often referred to as some type of noun. And, objectively processing the information received through observation. So, I see our courts and law enforcement as official observers of the law who know the rules and procedures then have due process to determine if a law has been violated and what penalty to impose where appropriate. And, I don't see that as anything anyone should take any more personally than said individual should reasonably expect the party they harmed (public if violating the law as well as individual victims evidencing the harm to the public of which all are equal members) to take the harm they caused. And, where said convicted person feels as if they have a right to absolution though they wish to not show their own godliness by being merciful when dealing with other members of the public evidenced by their own conduct and proof beyond a reasonable doubt thereof, I say they should lead by example in being merciful or recognize they are not the sole authority and don't have free reign to treat others however they want no matter the harm done to everyone else while having no accountability or responsibility at law. The best the US offers is to challenge, reform, amend, recall, and repeal with everyone having the right to peacefully voice our own position on said legislative actions. So, those who recognize the law and observe it will find more often than not the law recognizes and observes you in much the same light.

Personal judgment is often more subjective and should take into consideration the right or wrongness of an action and/or our own judgment. The laws in the US are objective as written more often than not, but, most certainly the US Constitution is as objective as any

system of laws can get with the Power of the People in mind. But, we're all free to be as subjective as we see fit as long as we don't wrongfully cause harm to anyone else in a legally actionable manner. That's great and I'm all for it. I hope you are too and willing to openly discuss and debate matters of disagreement, discord, and/or controversy without resorting to indiscriminate violence. If not, I'll be on the side of those who have a reasonable basis empowered by the People with our consent for the greater good to use necessary violence where if they too are found to have violated the law they too can be indicted and go to prison or even get the death penalty depending on jurisdiction. And, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were assassinated while in office. President Ronald Reagan also survived being shot while in office. Those responsible for that were not acting under the color of the law, but, John Hinckley, Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Reagan was conditionally released in September, 2016. Source: <https://qz.com/653671/35-years-later-the-man-who-shot-president-reagan-is-close-to-being-free/> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Hinckley\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Hinckley_Jr.)

That's our actual justice system in the USA. If you are President Ulysses S. Grant and speeding in DC while in office, you can get arrested. If you try to kill the sitting president of the United States you still have a chance to experience freedom again if it was a Republican. That's how I'm reading it anyway. So, sometimes it helps to self-examine and remember the majority will respond in-kind and don't dish it out if you can't take it. That's as fair and objective as any system of laws has ever been and you can't impose penalty outside systems of the law and then not accept any penalty imposed whether at law or beyond it without proving yourself to be unjust and negating your own opinion regarding the proper response or solution.

Subjectively, I try to be as objective as possible but am prone to be tempted to wrath because I love God and all that exists (existence requires something be factual and/or true, so, liars self-negate therefore often don't exist in a meaningful way if at all) while agreeing with Jesus that if a sinner (murderer or thief, etc) is sentenced to death (including death by crucifixion) for their crimes/sins that if they confess to others or show any remorse even in the hour of their death they shall be forgiven because God is All Merciful and is ready to receive the dead. And, if a sinner/criminal effectively repents which includes making effective and objectively reasonable amends with the victims of any harms they caused, then such will be forgiven by any godly (AKA honest and virtuous) person. So, to the extent anyone is more vicious than not it will tempt even the virtuous to the vice of wrath where if the justice system didn't exist to provide the option for those who are patient and exercise due diligence by navigating the process for the sake of justice, then civilization would devolve into tribal warfare and be very Hatfields and McCoys. <https://www.history.com/shows/hatfields-and-mccoys/articles/the-hatfield-mccoy-feud> Now, we have a justice system that is very procedural and slow but for good reason including the sake of justice if you consider everything objectively. And, without it we have the Hatfields and McCoys at times though for years the game show "Family Feud" has been a loving mock arguably of the Hatfields and McCoys saying there is a more friendly and fun way to resolve things like playing a game or if really serious going to court.

That being said, you may watch "Wonder Woman" and think it is full of action with some super-hero plot. Or, you may watch "Wonder Woman" and think "is the name "Diana" taken from Greek Mythology and if so are they saying "Diana" was involved with the "Amazons"? But, in the television show, with Linda Carter, the island she comes from is in the Bermuda Triangle and nowhere near Greece. So, just another bastardization of myths and legends that recorded in a "fanciful" and "imaginative" way the actual likely very boring lives of people who lived before the printing press and live television. Some kind of South American/Greco-Roman Mash Up all to mock the Nazis while revealing how the Nazis used bits of truth from all over to sound like they have a legit narrative when it is all propaganda and out of context. That makes sense since we make certain everyone knows that type of shit is fiction and not real." Either way, or even if your perspective is something completely different, it is often a result of your dedication or lack thereof to legitimate study and a commitment to lifelong learning. As annoyed as you may be with how self-involved pre-schoolers are at times when caring for them, that's how annoying you are when you say things to educated people about stuff they know and you don't as if you have something really profound or meaningful to say. With pre-schoolers, I'm all about listening because I like to know where they are at and see if there is a teachable moment or a conversation or activity that may help with intellectual growth where I've been entrusted with the task. But, with adults who really are as ignorant as pre-schoolers in many respects though not as willing to recognize they still have more to learn and I make learning fun more often than not, sometimes I feel impatient and have to recognize not everyone is as devoted to lifelong learning as I am and I shouldn't be too pushy about it because it may result in adult tantrums that no one honestly wants to deal with where more often than not the police do need to be called.

That being said, again, I remind everyone "Don't dish it out if you can't take it" and Edward Snowden is right that we all need to follow the Golden Rule, admit to our own fallibility, and develop "thicker skin" (i.e. accept feedback and consider it objectively rather than purely subjectively unless you want me and likely others to think you are in ways developmentally stuck between ages 2-3 years old which is fine and expected when dealing with those actually 2-3 years old or effectively diagnosed as developmentally disabled as long as they own it and admit it). Source on Snowden: [https://youtu.be/\\_Rl82OQDoOc](https://youtu.be/_Rl82OQDoOc) (Joe Rogan Experience: #1536)

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"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://wwwCOPE.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:

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