

A Sermon on Twitter Sermon #1

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

The first e-sermon delivered by COPE Ministries was delivered on February 2nd, 2020 and titled “Twitter Sermon #1”. While all subsequent e-sermons have been delivered every week on Twitter and elsewhere, “Twitter Sermon #1” was completely on Twitter in terms of the sermon itself. Here are the definitions of the word “sermon” as provided by Oxford Languages via Google: “a talk on a religious or moral subject, especially one given during a church service and based on a passage from the Bible” and/or “a long or tedious piece of admonition or reproof; a lecture.” Synonyms for sermon include tirade, diatribe, address, and lesson. And, academics recommend an 8-minute lecture. Source: <https://educationaldevelopment.uams.edu/the-eight-minute-lecture-keeps-students-engaged/> Other academics recommend the 5-minute lecture. Source: <https://www.middleweb.com/17738/five-minute-rule/> I honestly don’t know how long it takes each individual who does read and consider my sermons to do so. I do know that it takes me more than 8 minutes to write them and deliver them.

The February 2nd, 2020 e-sermon was delivered in full here: <https://twitter.com/heal247/status/1223927064765423616> And, began at 3:12am with the last tweet shared as part of that e-sermon added at 4:48pm the same day. That Twitter sermon was experimental and intended to be an e-introduction to the nature of COPE Ministries in terms of what to expect. If you’ve visited that thread, you know that sermon was on “imperfection” while highlighting public figures, of relatively topical and/or historical importance, and their humbleness in being admittedly fallible and imperfect.

The second purpose of Twitter Sermon #1, beyond the introduction of regular e-sermons by COPE (including the HEAL Mission) to the internet, was also to reinforce what is stated at <https://www.cope.church/imperfection.htm> . However, screenshots of the church and mission homepages today are different now than they were at the time, making the page on imperfection potentially obsolete from some perspectives. I feel the point of it remains valid and worthy of consideration. I also realize that this work will validate and reinforce empathy for those who already understand and experience it. But, those who do not understand may find learning empathy the hard way the reason they choose delusions of grandeur to reality and equality. They are definitively the metaphorical blind and often described as living “with blinders on”.

You can choose to boycott and divest from everything you deem imperfect or too flawed to exist. In doing so, that’s the opposite of a “namaste” and denying your own equality with fellow human beings. So, you may see yourself as better than those you mentally and at times may physically attempt to subjugate. But, in the USA adults are subject solely to the law to the extent it can be enforced. That’s what makes us all equal. And, I personally find people who assume authority they do not have to be inferior but out of a desire for civility will see them as potential equals while treating them as an equal until their attempt to subjugate triggers a deimatic response in which I metaphorically arch my back, raise my hairs on end, and fight back because I live with traumatic stress and find people who assume authority they do not have remind me of rapists who have raped me

in the past. Being aware of this flaw-by-injury, if you wish to think of traumatic stress in those terms, is helpful in self-de-escalations when trauma is triggered. And, if you act like you don't understand it, some may hope traumatizing you works where leading by example and teaching ethics/morals often through allegory, story-telling or other study hasn't been effective. See, in other species as well as ours, those seen as threats to the greater good (i.e. pack, pride, etc) are either killed or exiled. So, if you can reasonably be perceived as threatening to another person experiencing you in some way, instinctually both parties may seek to kill or exile the other including you. This is why using your words and communicating effectively without assuming authority or right over anyone else shows maturity beyond basic instincts. And, a sense of humor is helpful and a sign of intelligence.

The following are meditative questions:

Have you ever committed any civil or criminal offense? (including jaywalking, prank calls, etc)

Have you ever gotten away with committing any civil or criminal offense? (including speeding, parking, or other violations)

Do you want to live in a world where you would be penalized for every civil and criminal offense you've ever committed?

What's the worst crime or tort of which you've ever been a victim?

What's the worst crime or tort you've committed?

How much do you love due process?

Do you love due process more than you hate the perpetrator(s) of the worst crime or tort of which you were victim?

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>