

42.5 Are You Awake?

The *Princess and the Pea* story reminds us that we can be distracted even by tiny things. Despite the many mattresses, she could not forget the single pea causing her discomfort. It kept her awake throughout the night. Some of us are like the Princess, and we are distracted easily. Others of us can sleep through anything.

Americans, particularly American Christians, have been asleep for decades. Very little has roused them from their slumber. That is until the price of gasoline started climbing through the roof. Eyelids are starting to open to the evil that has permeated the culture in which we live.

We have known that evil exists. We have seen news reports of murder and mayhem. Those activities did not directly affect us, so we ignored them. God warns us about turning a blind eye to evil. Listen to these scriptures and see if there is an application.

Proverbs 21:13 (NKJV)

¹³Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor
Will also cry himself and not be heard.

Haggai 1:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: “Consider your ways!
⁶“You have sown much, and bring in little;
You eat, but do not have enough;
You drink, but you are not filled with drink;
You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;
And he who earns wages,
Earns wages *to put* into a bag with holes.”

Gas prices are hitting home with us. \$4-\$5 gas is outrageous for struggling families. High prices force us to reevaluate what is happening and who is responsible. It took the high cost of gasoline to open our eyes to the evil that is literally in every part of our world!

Let me list some evils that have been happening for years. These sins have been happening on our watch, and we have allowed them. Think about why we weren't concerned. Maybe the answer is that the list of sins has not directly impacted us. Here is the list:

- Massive Pedophilia
- Aborting millions of babies
- Biden leaving thousands of Americans in Afghanistan and millions of dollars of military equipment
- Hillary Clinton leaving Americans to die in Benghazi
- Big Tech's and the Mainstream Media's censorship of anything that questions their narrative
- Two years of contradictory information on Covid, including Fauci's emails that say masks are ineffective but we were required to wear them
- Two bogus impeachments of Trump based on proven lies
- State hearings verifying thousands of fraudulent votes in the 2020 election
- Denial of thousands of religious exemptions for the shot for the military
- Encouraging protests that destroyed US cities

Since America has left the God of the Bible, we have worshiped other gods. Perhaps the greatest god we worship is money. We reflect the worship of money in how we groan at the gas pump and grocery store.

The "Rich Young Ruler" in Luke 18 had kept commandments. However, when Jesus told the ruler to give away his money and follow, the man could not. He was wealthy and could not let go. I think Americans are much like the "Rich Young Ruler." We have made money, our god, and have been oblivious to the true God and the realities of our day.

Peter Muhlenberg was a Pastor in Virginia during the era of the American Revolution. He woke up and became politically active in the Virginia legislature. Later, the Continental Congress commissioned Peter as an officer in the American Army. He committed to fighting in every way he could for liberty.

His brother, Frederick, was also a Pastor. He served a congregation in New York City. Frederick thought his brother should not get involved in politics and war and told him so.

Frederick changed his mind when the British came to New York City and burned his house and church building. He barely escaped with his family. Frederick became politically involved in the fight against Great Britain. After the war, he became America's first Speaker of the House of Representatives.

We often are blind to the realities of evil until they directly affect us. Frederick learned an important lesson. We can pay attention to our surroundings and push back against evil before it gets out of hand. The sooner, the better. Evil is out of hand today because we did not pay attention.

Ephesians 5:11-14 (NKJV)

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. ¹⁴ Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light.”

Martin Niemoller was a German Pastor who opposed Adolph Hitler and the Nazi regime. He is famous for the following quote.

“First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

We must be alert and take action against evil. We resist the devil, we don't compromise with him. We do whatever we must to stand.

Keep The Light *of Standing for God Against Evil* Burning!