What Can the Prophets Teach Young People During the COVID-19 Crisis?

The prophets in the Abrahamic traditions spoke truth to power. They delivered God’s word to the people. They spoke on behalf of the underdogs and they challenged society towards social justice.

Modern day prophets include Dr. Martin Luther King, Rabbi Abraham Heschel, Malcolm X, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day. These prophets spoke truth to power and challenged our society towards social justice.

We have an idolatrous society today. We worship idols of Mammon, globalization, imperialism amongst many others. What makes God God is that He is the personification of love and justice and our highest ideals and for that reason He is not questioned (or at the very least is questioned less). An idol is that which stands besides God and is not questioned. Today, the idols that are focus of this blog post are the media and the government.

In today’s society, the mainstream media is not questioned. They are an idol for the people. They present a script and the people blindly follow the script. The present script is that we should all be scared. A disease like the Bubonic Plague is coming. Most of us are going to die. If you decide to go to a religious service, then you risk dying. And they will try to determine if the leader of the defiance of the script dies. If you decide to protest, you risk dying. And they will try to determine if the leader of the protest dies. The theme of the mainstream media is FEAR, FEAR, FEAR.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “It’s human to fear, but it’s INHUMAN to let fear control you.” Fear is the tool of idolaters and dictators. God is love and “perfect love casts out fear.” The idolaters promote so much fear that we are told to turn in our neighbors that do not obey the idolatrous script the same way that the neighbors of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were turned in by their neighbors when they refused to worship the idols in the past. The prophet Daniel spoke against this in the past. Where are today’s prophets that will call us to higher ground?

While the idolatrous media promotes fear, the truth of the matter is that COVID-19 has a 98% recovery rate. The idolatrous media exclusively focuses on how many people get the virus and how many people die from the virus. Why doesn’t the media focus as much on how many people recover from the virus? There are many that lived contrary to the media script. 7 states did not lockdown their citizenry – North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Wyoming. Why weren’t people dying like flies? The following countries have not locked down their citizenry – Sweden, Belarus, Cuba, Japan, N. Korea, Malawi, Burundi, S. Sudan, Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Botswana, Lesotho, Solomon Islands, Vanautu, Sao Tome and Principe, Samoa, Kiribati, Micronesia, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu, and Nauru. Why aren’t people dying like flies there? The countries that locked down the most had the most deaths. The states that locked down the most had the most deaths.

The idolatrous media is not promoting truth. New York and Pennsylvania have been caught padding their #s. Why? Hospitals receive more money if their patients get labelled as having COVID-19. Hospitals receive even more money if their patients are on ventilators; those that are on ventilators have an extremely high mortality rate. In addition, the vast majority of those that die are seniors and/or have compromised immune systems. If you die of a heart attack but test positive for COVID-19, it is listed as a COVID-19 death. Why aren’t people dying of heart attacks and strokes anymore? Maybe because there is an economic incentive for them to list the deaths as COVID-19.

How did we get here? We have an education system devoid of spirituality; devoid of morality. The 20th century prophet Mahatma Gandhi listed one of the seven social sins as education without character. The removal of prayer from school moved this society from freedom of religion to freedom from religion. We need the prophets from the past and the present to be a torchbearers for moral excellence.

The prophets from the past were HEALERS. They were not people that taught people to fear. They taught and cultivated wisdom and critical thinking; problem solving that would bring out the best in people. The Scriptures show that God delivered those that were the most oppressed and downtrodden. Israel was chosen because she was the least. In Matthew 25, Jesus says how you treat the least of these – those most downtrodden in society – is how you treat him.

As educators, it is important that we teach empathy. It is important that we teach our students to become wise and critical thinkers – investigate for themselves. Currently, we have a corporate controlled media, corporate controlled government, and corporate controlled medical establishment. It is imperative that we teach young people to investigate information themselves and make it a point to talk to the voiceless. To balance the yearning of the voiceless with the highest values within the holy books of the Abrahamic religions. We have to challenge young people to get involved in the government and to get actively involved in solving critical issues instead of relying on the experts. We should challenge people to think for themselves while being guided by the SUBLIME. We have to challenge young people to ask what does medical work look like divorced from corporate control. We must share with them the history of prophetic work, where healers healed without any desire for money. We must share with the them the history of public hospitals - medical service and money were separated.

Benjamin Franklin said, “Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Franklin’s words are timeless. I daresay that the goal of all the religions is for us to be FREE. The prophets healed and did not take away the freedom of the people in the process. There were times in the holy books that the sick were quarantined, but it was not everyone. The prophets of yesterday and today must be torchbearers for a better society. We must include character as part of our education.

In President Dwight Eisenhower’s Farewell Address, he not only warned us against the military-industrial complex he warned about the dangers of public policy being made by a scientific and technological elite. Today, we have a rising medical-industrial complex. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have an inordinate amount of power. You have unelected officials that are dictating public policy. Who are the leaders – the elected officials or Dr. Fauci? Who are the leaders – the elected officials or Bill Gates? The medical industrial complex has a goal of mass vaccinations. Bill Gates, one of the richest men on the planet, wants mass vaccinations and also believes in DEPOPULATION.

Young people must be taught to question and critically analyze everything including the experts. They need to fact check everything including the experts. They need to question the motivations as well as some of the valid points of the experts. It is dangerous to blindly follow anyone. They must be prepared for wisdom. They should be prepared for the highest level of critical thinking. Examples of high level critical thinking questions during a time like this are: How do we promote justice and healing during times of a pandemic? What is a pandemic? Is this a pandemic? Are there accurate numbers being listed for death counts? Why are hospitals being given extra money for labelling patients as having COVID-19 and does this affect the accuracy of the count? Why are hospitals being given extra money for having patients on ventilators? Are ventilators the best way to treat COVID-19 patients? What is the best way to treat COVID-19 patients? What places around the world have had the best treatment for COVID-19? Are there outside of the box ways to treat this? What does the # of deaths look like in the states and countries that have locked down vs. those that have not locked down?

The Bubonic Plague killed a third of the European population, because it also occurred at the time of a depression. When you are faced with epidemics coupled with economic collapse, then you can potentially face apocalyptical conditions. Young people need to be taught history radically different than how it is currently taught. History should be taught as a current event. What does the Bubonic Plague teach us today? In what ways were the Bubonic Plague and COVID-19 the same? In what ways were the Bubonic Plague and COVID-19 different? What does a COVID-19 look like if there is a depression? Which is more important to save – the health of the people or the economy?

The Bill of Rights are PROPHETIC. They are timeless and universal. They safeguard the rights of the people against the government. They safeguard freedom. Currently, the government is violating the freedoms of the people, because we are in the midst of a crisis. The following are violations of freedom: dictating that people have to wear masks, social distancing, prohibiting religious services, and disrupting commerce. Should the Constitution be suspended in times of crisis? Are there ever times that the Constitution should be suspended? Are there dangers to suspending the Constitution?

Many of us say phrases like, “When it gets back to normal....” How about if it NEVER gets back to normal? We assume it will get back to normal. Was normal working? How do we ensure that it gets back to normal?

Young people are the leaders of tomorrow. They need to be given an education better than us. They deserve an education that cultivates character. They deserve an education that stands on the values of the prophets of yesterday and today and critically analyzes all that it is set before them. The idolatry must stop. No one is above questioning. The government can be questioned. The media can be questioned. Bill Gates can be questioned. Dr. Fauci can be questioned. The Constitution can be questioned. They must question the sacred cows to cooperatively problem solve in the highest possible way. They need to study the events of history that are most like what we are going through and critically examine what the lessons of those historical events are and what they teach us today. They must problem solve with an empathy for those at the bottom of society.