

April 2015

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Are We Really Locked Out?

Is our nation's decline an act of choice, chance, or neglect?

“All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” --Edmund Burke (1729-1797)

A spectator was removed from the Courtroom after yelling out “supporters of gay-marriage will burn in hell!” Otherwise there were no surprises in yesterday’s U.S. Supreme Court hearing on the matter of same-sex “marriage.” Proponents had 90-minutes to present their case and opponents followed up with 60 minutes. Presumably, the justices thereafter repaired to their conference room to vote and then head for home. Just another day at the office.

Judicial analysts predict that the marriage vote (behind closed doors) is currently four votes yea and four votes nay, with Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy positioned on the fence—and thus, the swing vote, as usual. But, regardless of the high Court’s opinion, which is expected to be issued sometime in late June, millions of Americans think the fix is in. The President promised to fundamentally transform the United States of America, and, all things considered, mainstreaming gay-marriage, which he champions, certainly demonstrates a colossal transformation.

Whether the high Court finds for or against homosexual “marriage,” is perhaps immaterial. The President has said, “I’ve got a pen and I’ve got a phone.” The few remaining holdout states will be pummeled by Mr. Obama’s close allies, i.e., high-tech firms, media, and institutions of “higher” learning—as was the case in Indiana last week. Lawmakers there had hoped to provide minimal cover for small business owners facing nuisance gay-industry lawsuits. In the end, they were forced to neuter their measure—to the delight of guests who regularly overnight in the Lincoln bedroom.

Perhaps for these and sundry other considerations, a growing majority of Americans no longer trust the President of the United States—*leader* of the free world. Here is how one blogger sees it:

A man who has locked everyone out

“The pilot was locked out of the cockpit. That phrase finally revealed the full horror of the crash of Germanwings flight 9525. Co-pilot Andreas Lubitz waited for the pilot to leave the cockpit, then locked the door to prevent his re-entry. After which Lubitz, for reasons unknown and perhaps unknowable, deliberately steered the jet into a harrowing eight-minute plunge ending in an explosive 434 mph impact with a rocky mountainside. 150 men, women and children met an immediate, unthinkable violent death.

Lubitz, in his single-minded madness, couldn't be stopped because anyone who could change the jet's disastrous course was locked out. It's hard to imagine the growing feelings of fear and helplessness that the passengers felt as the unforgiving landscape rushed up to meet them. Hard—but not impossible.

“Because America is in trouble, we feel the descent in the pits of our stomachs. We hear the shake and rattle of structures stressed beyond their limits.

“We don't know where we're going anymore, but do know it isn't good. And above all, we feel helpless because Barack Obama has locked us out.

He locked the American people out of his decision to seize the national healthcare system. Locked us out when we wanted to know why the IRS was attacking conservatives. He locked us out of having a say in his decision to tear up our immigration laws, and to give over a trillion dollars in benefits to those who broke those laws.

Obama locked out those who advised against premature troop withdrawals. Locked out the intelligence agencies who issued warnings about the growing threat of ISIS. He locked out anyone who could have interfered with his release of five Taliban terror chiefs in return for one U.S. military deserter. And of course, Barack Obama has now locked out Congress, the American people, and our allies as he strikes a secret deal with Iran to determine the timeline (not prevention) of their acquisition of nuclear weapons.

Was Andreas Lubitz depressed, insane, or abysmally evil when he decided to lock that cockpit door and listen to no voices other than those in his head? Did he somehow believe himself to be doing the right thing?

The voice recordings from the doomed aircraft reveal that as the jet began its rapid descent, the passengers were quiet. There was probably some nervous laughter, confusion, a bit of comforting chatter with seatmates, followed by a brief period in which anxiety had not yet metastasized into terror. It was only near the end of the eight-minute plunge that everyone finally understood what was really happening. Only near the end when they began to scream.

Like those passengers, a growing number of Americans feel a helpless dread as they come to the inescapable conclusion that our nation's decline is an act of choice rather than of chance. The choice of one man who is in full control of our eight-year plunge. A man who has locked everyone out.”¹

While we understand why many have come to believe that one man is running the show, we're not about to fold our tents. Moreover, we suspect too many of us are merely spectators these days. Case in point: The Stormans family Olympia-area grocery-pharmacy has refused a state order to carry the morning-after abortifacient “Plan B.” And, how many other pharmacies in Washington State are standing with them? ZERO. So, where are believers purchasing their pharmaceuticals these days?

Aaron and Melissa Klein, owners of Sweet Cakes Bakery in Gresham, Oregon have declined to decorate cakes for same-sex weddings. How many other Oregon bakeries are on board? ZERO. Barronelle Stutzman, owner of Arlene's Flowers in Richland, is being sued by State Attorney General Bob Ferguson for declining to provide floral arrangements for a same-sex “wedding.” Number of fellow florists siding with her? ZERO. And, from whom do believers now order their flowers?

Jesus used an illustration of an unjust steward who was fired by his master, yet commended for his shrewdness, adding: “*For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.*” (Luke 16:8) Reluctantly, we commend the President and his followers who are shrewd in the use of their pens and their phones.

Hmmm, wonder if writing letters and making phone calls would work for the faith community?

Rick Forcier

PS. Don't forget MOTHER'S DAY! Call Arlene's Flowers at: 800-692-0706 or www.arlenesflowers.com

¹ josephbotts.com/2015/04/09/we-have-been-locked-out/, author unknown