

SOMETHING FOR YOU TO READ - ARTICLE 2

DANCING FOR HEROD

On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for them and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." (St. Matthew 14:6-8).

We recall, from a number of years ago, a pastor saying, "In order to win the world we must become like the world." That thought has been echoed by a multitude of pastors and contemporary "gurus" repeatedly over the past years. The wavering and unbelieving hearts of those who deny Scripture will never hear God speak: "Therefore come out from them, and be separate..." (2 Corinthians 6:17a). The truth about the Word of God is conveniently forgotten: "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6).

And so, what calls itself "church" looks and smells and tastes like the world. The world wants the church to dance for it and, like Herodias, it dances. Trust in the pure Word of God - its power and strength - is served up on a platter of silliness and mockery. But, of course, it does excite and get everybody's attention.....for awhile.....until another something different comes along.

On March 13, 2008 the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod announced that Dr. Leonard Sweet would speak at a special convocation - a convocation that would be part of its effort of "renewal" concerning the Missouri Synod's "structure and governance."

If you "Google" Sweet's name on the internet you'll find all sorts of interesting insights about the man. A futurist. A New-Ager. An advocate of Semiotics. Berit Kjos gives this insight: "The new focus is on unity - - a world-wide oneness reflected in the growing union between the East and West. Leonard's Sweet's online book, Quantum Spirituality, sheds some revealing light of the envisioned global 'church' for the 21st century. In his view, the offense of the cross has been replaced with a passion for interfaith and peace and possibility thinking. To illustrate this point, Dr. Sweet points to Thomas Merton, the popular Catholic author who popularized mysticism and died in Asia searching the depths of Tibetan Buddhism." (The Emerging Global Church by Berit Kjos)

Salvation by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ is no longer needed. It doesn't fit the goal of the of the "envisioned global church". And since it isn't needed neither is the Word of God. It's too exclusionary.

And The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod turns to this kind of thinking from a futurist. Maybe no-one is really all that concerned about where "renewal" of the Synod's "structure and governance" is headed. Evidently, the comfort zone of the Laity and the Clergy alike has become far more important than to make the sacrifice and effort of dealing with issues.

We recall a conversation with some pastors of the Missouri Synod from a number of years ago when one pastor jokingly stated: "The glue that holds the Missouri Synod together is the Concordia Plans." We laughed. But we knew it really wasn't a joke.

Synodical President Gerald Kieshnick once stated, "This is not your grandfather's church." He's right. It isn't your grandfather's church. It isn't your father's church. And, before its over, it won't be your church. We're guessing that, with few exceptions, the Laity of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod will shrug its shoulders and pretend that as long as "things" don't mess with their socials, family ties, stones and stained glass windows - well - no bother!

It's just like God said through Jeremiah:

A horrible and shocking thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. But what will you do in the end? (Jeremiah 5:30-31).

We call it DANCING FOR HEROD.

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