

The Gospel Speaks To The Violence In Our Communities And In American Culture

A Lecture For:

Como First Baptist Church 5228 Goodman Ave. Ft. Worth, Texas

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The Gospel Speaks To The Violence In Our Communities And In American Culture

A Lecture By:

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"WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DADDY MAKES!"

by

MANUEL SCOTT, JR.

Children are screaming even in their sleep We all need to hear even for our own sakes An entire generation, a child, all lost in unconscious pain What a difference a Daddy makes!

Gangs of youths terrorize the land Hunting for a voice, a hand, a smile to alleviate The trauma of a father who never was there Oh! What a difference a Daddy makes!

Girls and young women slither in lust
Using their bodies, their fantasies, to communicate
That they're lost little lambs looking for a kind Shepherd
Jesus! What a difference a Daddy makes!

Executives and teachers, athletes and movie stars Nursing old wounds too deep to articulate An outburst here, a neurosis there, quietly sobbing My God! What a difference a Daddy makes!

For a father, to a child, is a virtual god A giant Teddy Bear of affection guarding the gate But when his presence is not felt, the child slowly, ever so slowly, begins to evaporate Mercy! What a difference a Daddy makes!

And so, dear friend, while the past has already taken place I say to you, look up! For I've found a Father who can handle your case He's the Father of Mercy, Compassion, Love and Care Seek Him. Trust Him. Obey Him. And you will gladly declare What a difference a Daddy makes!

Quotations Of Consequence

- 1. "Nothing will be saved until souls are saved." Bishop Fulton Sheen
- 2. "Never put before you that which does not belong in you."
 Mike Murdock
- 3. "If we do not have within us that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is around us." P.T. Forsythe
- 4. "One requirement of wisdom is knowing who to honor." Mike Murdock
- 5. "The time is always ripe to do right." Dr. M.L. King, Jr.
- 6. "God is of no importance unless God is of supreme importance." Abraham Joshua Heschel
- 7. "He who opens a school door, closes a prison." Victor Hugo
- 8. "Common sense is not so common." Voltaire
- 9. "Men become accustomed to poison by degrees." Victor Hugo
- 10. "Be the change you want to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi
- 11. "Perseverance; the secret to all triumphs." Victor Hugo
- 12. "Show me your son's friends, and I will show you his future." Jawanza Kunjufu
- 13. "The Church is the Church only when it exits for others."

 Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- 14. "Never allow your memory to become your enemy." Mike Murdock

Quotations Of Consequence(cont.)

- 15. "My purpose is so much greater than my problems."

 Quincy Jones
- 16. "Budgets are moral documents." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 17. "Our character is made by our choices." Bishop Fulton Sheen
- 18. "Dads, whatever happens in your marriage, don't divorce your children." Jawanza Kunjufu
- 19. "I will go anywhere as long as it is forward."

 David Livingstone

I. Preliminary Statement

- A. Because violence is so pervasive, prominent, and pronounced in our culture today, people of "good will" (regardless of their race, color, or ethnic origin) are seriously and justifiably concerned.
- B. As a Christian evangelist, I truly believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ(with its potent and delivering power) can adequately diagnose the situation and prescribe effective solutions to the situation, empowering proactive-minded individuals to take redemptive action(Romans 12:1,2; Matthew 22:37-39: Micah 6:8).
- C. Having said this, and with all due respect to those of you who perhaps are not Christian, I pray that this lecture will feature observations, principles, and insights upon which we all can agree.

II. Operating Principle Of This Entire Lecture

- A. After much study and meditation, I contend that all "societal" problems are essentially "spiritual" problems(David says, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in <u>sin</u> did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5).
- B. Once again, this is why Bishop Fulton Sheen has so profoundly observed, "Nothing will be saved until souls are saved."
- C. For whenever a person(especially a young person), gets "right" with God through Jesus Christ:

II. Operating Principle Of This Entire Lecture (cont.)

- 1. Their concept of "themselves" will be undeniably "healthy" (Psalm 139:14; John 9:25; II Corinthians 5:17).
- 2. Their "minds" will be properly "focused" (Philippians 4:8; Isaiah 26:3).
- 3. Their "wills" will be "swallowed" up in the Father's Will(Matthew 26:39).
- 4. Their "value" on human life will be high and "sacred" (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 35:40; John 10:10b).
- D. Conclusion: Whenever a person's concept of "themselves" is spiritually "healthy," whenever a person's "mind" is seriously "focused" on Christ, whenever a person's "will" is "immersed" in the Father's Will, and whenever a person "views" all human life as divinely "sacred," they will not, will not, participate in drugs, gangs, murders, the denigration of women, and criminal behavior of any sort!

III. For Those Who Are Grieving

A. I, like many of you, know what it means to lose a precious loved one(under various circumstances).

III. For Those Who Are Grieving(cont.)

- B. For the losing of a loved one, if they were truly loved, especially if their exit from this life was tragic, is absolutely crushing to those of us who genuinely loved them.
- C. And grief, like most great emotions and experiences, has powerful lessons for all us to learn.
- D. And one hard lesson that grief teaches us is that "revenge"-pay back(outside the Law) is "never" the way or the answer.

E. More lessons Grief teaches:

- 1. You'll learn that grief will introduce you to and induct you into a "camaraderie of grievers;" that is, you will discover that there are so many others who are grieving just like you.
- 2. You'll discover that grief is a "process" that has several "stages" (such as denial, depression, guilt, anger, blame, etc.) that you "must" go through on your way to healing.
- 3. Now, the supreme challenge is to "not" get "stuck" in any one "stage" of grieving.
- 4. For believers, in particular, please know that God, the ultimate Healer(Psalm 107:20;), majors in "functional healing," meaning that in spite of your pain, limpness, and sorrow, God can and will heal you "enough" so that you can "function!"

IV. The Gospel Addresses Hopelessness

- A. A basic existential definition of "hope" is the sure belief that things can and will get better.
- B. The Greek words for "hope" is "elpis(noun) and "elpizo" (verb), meaning "confident expectation."
- C. While "hope" looks upon tomorrow as promising "opportunity," hopelessness looks upon tomorrow as another day of unbearable "pain."
- D. And whenever a person loses hope, whenever a person is constantly in excruciating pain, coupled with a seething anger, life in general, and many times, human life itself, has very little meaning indeed.

E. An Acronym For HOPE:

- 1. Holding
- 2. **O**n
- 3. Persistently
- 4. Earnestly

F. What Others Have Said About Hope:

- 1. "Keep hope alive!" Jesse Jackson
- 2. "When hope is taken away from a people, degeneration swiftly follows." Pearl Buck

IV. The Gospel Addresses Hopelessness(cont.)

- 3. "A leader is a dealer in hope," Napoleon Bonaparte
- 4. "Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future." Robert Schuller
- G. What Scripture Says About Hope:
 - 1. "Christ in you...the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27).
 - 2. "Happy is he...whose hope is in the Lord." (Psalm 146:5).
 - 3. "For we are saved by hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he hope for?" (Romans 8:24)
 - 4. "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure." (I John 3:3)

V. Violence As The Central "Drug" In American Culture

A. With the perilous prevalence and dubious popularity of incontinent "violence" in our communities and culture today, with the horrific murders of Soulja Slim, Tupac, Notorious B.I.G, Nipsey Hussle, George Floyd, Tyre Nichols(to name a few), "violence" has become so menacingly ubiquitous and ever-present, until "violence" may be viewed, not only as a "fact" of our culture, but

A. a "drug" of our culture.

- B. For as horrendously "addictive" as crack-cocaine is, as heroin is, as pornography is, as fentanyl is, as various forms of opioids are, "violence" has become equally and monstrously "addictive" in our contemporary times.
- C. The "violence" depicted on television, at the movies, on the Internet, in Video Games, in cartoons, in commercials, in "road rage," in Sports (football, wrestling boxing, UFC, hockey, etc.), has created such an atmosphere of "edginess" and animosity, that it has become an existential threat to everyday living.

D. How Violence "Injects" Its Poison

- 1. Especially for the impressionable (the young) and the emotionally unstable, "every" act of "violence" witnessed(actual or virtual), is a lethal and demonic "infusion" of "violence" into the minds and spirits of individuals.
- 2. As it relates to so many in our communities, to "witness" human violence (in any form) is to be harmfully "injected" with violence.

3. Examples:

- a. Every time a young person "witnesses" (actually or virtually) someone being "shot," that's an "injection" of "violence" in their spirit.
- b. Every time a young person "witnesses" someone being viciously assaulted or beaten, that's an "injection" of "violence" in their spirit.
- c. Every time a young person "witnesses" someone being killed or murdered, that's an "injection" of "violence" in their spirit.
- d. Every time a young person "witnesses" (by way of the Media), mass slayings of children at Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, and High Schools, that's an "injection" of "violence" in their spirit.
- e. Every time a young person "witnesses" the brandishing of gold and silver-plated guns and assault weapons, that's an "injection" of "violence" in their spirit.
- 4. Please Note: Just as devastating as the drug "fentanyl" is to an individual, the "drug" of "violence" is as devastating to our communities and our culture!

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E. It Is Time To "Seriously" Hold "The Media" Significantly Responsible For Violence In American Culture

1. Along with desperately needing more guncontrol legislation, along with earnestly increasing Mental Health efforts, along with strenuously fortifying the Black Home, we "urgently" need to hold the Media(particularly certain Televison series, videos, the Internet, Gangsta Rap concerts, etc.) "accountable" for much of the voracious "violence" in America today!

2. Here Is The Sinister Formula(Don't Miss It!):

- a. To "present" and "portray" violence in the Media(with all its ominous trappings of "bling," fabulous homes, fabulous cars, fabulous planes and yachts, and "hoochie mama's" galore) is to "glamorize" it!
- b. To "glamorize" violence is to "endorse" it!
- c. To "endorse" violence is to "encourage" someone to "imitate" it!
- d. <u>Here's The Summary:</u> To "portray" violence (in the Media especially) is to "glamorize" it, thereby "endorsing" it, thereby causing someone to "imitate" it. Mercy!!

3. Gangsta-Rap Concerts; such Television series as *Empire*, *Power*, *Black Mafia Family(BMF)*. *Snowfall*, *etc.*, are catastrophically "portraying" violence, "glamorizing" violence, "endorsing" violence, and causing many of our young people to "imitate" the violence they are seeing.

F. Perhaps A Solution: The "Detoxification" Of Violence In Our Communities And Culture

1. Just as drug addicts and alcoholics must undergo "detoxification" in order to get well, I submit to you that much of the Black Community(and America) must undergo some sort of "detoxification" in order to "cleanse" itself from this draconian "drug" of **violence**.

2. Proposed Steps:

- a. We must take God, His Word, and living a Christ-centered life far more seriously(Luke 9:23; Matthew 11:28; Ephesians 6:10).
- b. We must challenge and change the "violence" being "portrayed" in various platforms of the Media(Romans 12:2).
- c. We must carefully "revisit." and perhaps "reinterpret," **The Twelve Steps**(made famous by Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous) to "fit" and "fix" our current situation.

d. Some Specific Steps(8):

- 1. We must "confess" that, heretofore. we have been oblivious-ignorant to the "connection" between "violence" in the Media and "violence" in our communities.
- 2. We must believe that a higher power-God can enable us to make this "connection" and restore "sanity" back to our communities.
- 3. We must "renounce" every effort to address this issue of "violence" without God's help!
- 4. We must take an honest "inventory" of "ourselves," making sure that we are not supporting "violence" in any way.
- 5. We must have serious "conversations" with others on how to eradicate "violent" tendencies in our communities.
- 6. We must constantly "pray" that God will strengthen our individual character, so that when we confront this issue of "violence" in our neighborhoods, we do so with "credibility" and spiritual power.

- 7. We must apologize to friends, family, and colleagues for being far too "silent" and docile on this issue of "violence" in the "hood."
- 8. We must organize "prayer meetings" expressly seeking God's Will in showing us exactly what we should do.

G. It's Time For a "Cold Turkey" Approach

- 1. Cold Turkey: "The abrupt and complete cessation of taking a drug to which one is addicted," for the purpose of "wellness" and "wholeness."
- 2. Somehow, all of us of "good will," must "immediately." "immediately," find ways to "defang" this **drug monster of violence** in our communities.

3. Some Suggestions:

a. Parents and/or concerned adults must "immediately" **stop** allowing their children to watch "violent" movies, **Horror** movies, Gagsta-Rap videos, or foulmouth Black comedians(males and females).

- b. Parents and/or concerned adults must "immediately" **stop** allowing their children to play "violent" video games.
- c. Parents and/or concerned adults must "immediately" **stop** allowing their children or grandchildren to "dress" like gangsters, hustlers, pimps, "players," and "hoochimamas" (including T-shirts of the same).
- d. Parents and/or concerned adults must "immediately" **stop** allowing their children to attend the vileness of Gangsta-Rap concerts.
- e. Pastors must "immediately" lead the Black men of their respective churches(as Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood did in Brooklyn, New York) to serve "notice" to gangsters, killers, and drug dealers, that their "reign of terror" is over!!!
- f. We must "immediately" communicate to local politicians and attend city-council meetings pressuring them to "notify" the Television and Movie industry, as well as corporate sponsors of Gangsta-Rap concerts, that the "glamorization" of "violence" will no longer be tolerated!

- g. We must"immediately be more "diligent" in having more Community and Church sponsored workshops dealing with 1)great personalities of Black history, 2)the "value" of Education, 3)how to "dress" for success, 4)how to "speak" for success, 5)how to behave "respectfully," with Christian charm and humility.
- h. We must secure even "more" Scholarships and Grants for our young people to attend College(especially our HBCU's-Historically Black Colleges And Universities).

VI. Profanity As An Act Of Violence

- A. Former President Bill Clinton once profoundly remarked that, during World War II,
 Prime Minister Winston Churchill, "Marshalled the English language and sent it into war."
- B. From the above statement, I maintain that "language" can be used as a weapon, at times, a dangerous weapon.
- C. "Life and death are in the power of the tongue..." (Proverbs 18:21)
- D. "But the tongue, can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3;8).

VI. Profanity As An Act Of Violence(cont.)

- E. "The corruption of man is followed by the corruption of language." Ralph Waldo Emerson
- F. I submit to you, in a most sober way, that "street level" profanity is "violent" language that has gone to "war:
 - 1. War with one's self.
 - 2. War with one's upbringing.
 - 3. War with an unjust society.
 - 4. War with women.
 - 5. War with poverty.
 - 6. War with authority and structure.
 - 7. War with low self-esteem, even self-hatred.
 - 8. War with the perception that one is not loved or appreciated.

G. Four Observations:

- 1. It is no "accident" that most of the violence, gang killings, and murders in our communities are "preceded" by an onslaught of hateful "profanity."
- 2. For it is quite easy to move from "cursing" someone out, to "punching" someone out.
- 3. It should be understood that when you "reduce" the violence of "profanity," you go a long way in "reducing" violence itself.

VI. Profanity As An Act Of Violence(cont.)

4. As a Christian (who use to curse like a sailor), I, like many others, know that when you truly surrender to Christ, He will "clean up" your language (James 1:26; Proverbs 21:23).

VII. The Big Elephant In The Room: Living In A State Of Denial

- A. The truth of the matter is that if parents, grandparents, and concerned adults would, from their child's earliest years, train up their child in "the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6), they would not have to live in "denial" when their child(on their own) decides to move in unacceptable directions.
- B. In other words, much of the "violence" our young people get caught up in at an early age, could have been "avoided" if "only" parents would not have opted for "denial" when they "first" saw "glimpses" of such behavior emerging.
- C. For never forget this truth: When you "deny" what you see, you "encourage" what you see.
- D. Even with all of its challenges, it is still "easier" to "raise" a child, than it is to try to "fix" a child. (Jawanza Kunjufu).

VII. The Big Elephant In The Room(cont.)

- E. A Grandmother and mother who did not have to live in "denial:" Lois and Eunice
 - 1. The Apostle Paul says to Tmothy, "I am reminded of your faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois, and in your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded, now lives in you also."
 - 2. I Timothy 1:5

VIII. The "Arrested Development" Of The Negative Side Of Being "Real"

- A. Let us initially realize that "reality" has always had two sides: A "negative" side and a "positive" side.
 - 1. For the "negative" side of reality is that people can be "cheap," but the "positive" side of reality is that people can be "generous."
 - 2. The "negative" side of reality is that people can be "nasty," but the "positive" side of reality is that people can be "pleasant."
 - 3. The "negative" side of reality is that people can be "jealous," but the "positive" side of reality is that people can be "big-hearted."

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VIII. The "Arrested Development" Of The Negative Side Of Being "Real" (cont.)

- B. And everyone, without exception, has the choice of "emphasizing" the "negative" side of reality or the "positive" side of reality(i.e. the proverbial glass "half full," or "half empty").
- C. And if people get "stuck," I mean "stuck," on "emphasizing" the "negative" side of reality, they ""wallow" in anger, bitterness, and a chronic "mentality" of frustration, delusion, and unresolved pain.
- D. Consequently, and here is the point, when Gangsta-rappers and their followers talk about being "real," they are **actually** talking about getting "stuck," tragically, on the "negative" side of living in the "hood."
- E. In other words, they have, unknowingly, become "victims" of an "arrested development," that "prevents" them from moving "beyond" the "negative" realities "to" the "positive" realities of Black life.
- F. For let us move "beyond" the "negative" side of pimps and "players," to the "positive" side professors and airplane pilots.
 - 1. Let us move "beyond" the "negative" side of drug dealers to the "positive" side of

VIII. The "Arrested Development" Of The Negative Side Of Being "Real" (cont.)

- 1. Medical doctors and surgeons.
- 2. Let us move "beyond" the "negative" side of prostitutes and "hoochi-mamas," to the "positive" side of Registered nurses and College presidents.
- 3. Let us move "beyond" the "negative" side of murderers and killers, to the "positive" side of astronauts and entrepreneurs.
- G. Conclusively, let us not get "stuck" or "arrested" by the "negative" side of being "real," but let us go "beyond" and get "inspired" by the "positive" side of being "real."

IX. A Serious Question For The Church: Where Is The Salt?

- A. Jesus decisively says in Matthew 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its flavor...it is then good for nothing" (NKJV).
- B. In the Ancient world, "salt" (Greek-"halas") was known as a powerful antiseptic, fertilizer, flavor enhancer, and preservative.
- C. Salt could keep meat from decaying and it had considerable medicinal powers to heal open wounds.

IX. A Serious Question For The Church: Where Is The Salt?(cont.)

- D. Therefore, when Jesus tells us that we believers are the "salt of the earth," He is actually saying that our **spiritual influence** on the world and in our communities **should** find us being powerful **cleansing agents** "sanitizing" and "decontaminating" the "rotteness" of violence, corruption, and moral decay.
- E. But, as I carefully survey the collapse and chaos of our communities and the insanity of our culture, I'm having a hard time "seeing" (with some exceptions) where we-"the salt of the earth" are having a meaningful and redemptive impact.
- F. In other words, I see "everything" else, but, Where Is The Salt?
- G. Here's My Concern:
 - 1. I see the "oregano" of anger, but where is salt?
 - 2. I see tthe "garlic" of gangsters and greed, but where is the salt?
 - 3. I see the "nutmeg" of nonsense and narcissism, but where ithe salt?
 - 4. I see the "ginger" of degeneracy, but where is the salt?

IX. A Serious Question For The Church: Where Is The Salt(cont.)

- 5. I see the "pepper" of pain, but where is the salt?
- 6. I see the "cinnamon" of criminality, but where is the the salt?
- 7. I see the "rum" of ruination, but where is the salt?
- H. Perhaps, the answer to the whole matter can be found in II Chronicles 7:14:

"If my people, which are called by my name, would humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal the land."

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Who Is Evangelist Manuel Scott, Jr?

- He is the first Seminary-trained, full-time Evangelist on a national scale coming out of the black Baptist Church.
- He has recently been appointed the "official" full-time evangelist of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc, Dr. Jerry Young, President.
- His Ministry is endorsed by some of the greatest preachers in the world today, including:

Dr. Manuel Scott, Sr. (In Heaven)

Dr. Ephraim Williams (Sacramento, CA)

Dr. E. V. Hill (In Heaven)

Bishop Charles Blake (COGIC)

Bishop T. Larry Kirkland (A. M. E. Church)

- He has conducted over 1100 revivals and crusades (averaging 53 revivals a year) wherein some 20,000 persons have come to the Lord.
- He is the author of the book, <u>The Quotable Manuel Scott Sr. Words From A Gospel Genius</u>. This book is a collection of nearly 500 quotes and seven sermons spoken or written by his late great father, Dr. Manuel Scott Sr.
- He was Senior Class President, Dorsey High, Los Angeles CA (1967) and Freshman Class President, Bishop College, Dallas TX (1968).
- He is a graduate of U. C. L. A. (BA 1971), received his Masters of Divinity Degree (1975) from Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, New Jersey), and was accepted into the PhD program at Claremont School of Theology (Claremont, CA).
- He has written over 105 printed lectures including such titles as "I'm Too Blessed To Be Stressed," "Preacher, Wait Your Turn," "What's Up?" "Sister, Does Your Man Pass The Test?" "What The Bible Has To Say About Worship And Praise," "How To Inspire And Organize Youth In The Urban Church" and "Church Evangelism According To Christ," to name a few.
- He believes that the Gospel has the power to save, free, change and heal anyone, regardless of race, creed, color or denomination!

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