

A commoner can make a difference

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 19-20, 2009. Mr. Havir gives credit to Hans Christian Andersen for inspiring this article.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Once upon a time there was a little kingdom. (This little kingdom preceded the coming of the greater Kingdom of God.)

The little kingdom began in Eugene about 75 years ago.

At the time of its origin it did not practice the system of the much larger kingdom of Rome established 1,700 years before.

When the little kingdom moved to Pasadena more than 60 years ago, the seeds of the Roman system began to take hold.

The change in approach did not firmly take root until the death of a noble lady 42 years ago.

After her death the system of Rome became stronger in this little kingdom. As time passed, the rulers of the kingdom grew so ardently fond of a class system, titles and prestige that they spent much of their time seeking to perpetuate their little kingdom.

A system with class

While the greater Kingdom of God promised a time of justice, the little kingdom grew fraught with a distinct class system and codependency.

The higher class wanted to rule over people. Some of the rulers were motivated by a love of money. However, most of the rulers were convinced that they had some special calling through the monarchy over the commoners. Most of the rulers thought they were indeed royalty.

Worse yet, the lower class was willing to have a monarchy over it.

Throughout the 42 years various members of the royalty and commoners discovered in the Book of Truth that the system of Rome was not to be used. Some even became so bold as to speak up. But speaking up was not tolerated among the little kingdom.

Some of these people were put out of the little kingdom. Many commoners did not know what had happened to them. The rulers branded them as malcontents, so the rest of the commoners did not spend much time searching for details. The rulers told the people the others had done something bad. Therefore the people were expected to believe the worst about those people.

The plague

In the course of time a plague of bad ideas troubled the little kingdom. The commoners thought the royalty would protect them. Many commoners were disappointed when much of the royalty did not speedily confront the plague.

Some of the royalty were overcome by the plague and passed it on to others. Some of the royalty were aware of the plague but did not warn the commoners of its dire consequences.

Others of the royalty grew preoccupied with their food supply and did not properly lead the commoners who were depending upon them. (Many commoners were overly dependent upon the royalty.)

After the plague upon the little kingdom, smaller kingdoms began to spring to life.

Kingdom hopping

When smaller kingdoms formed, many of them quickly established the same monarchical system of Rome. There were plenty among the royalty who wanted their own little kingdoms and craved loyalty from commoners.

Since each of them claimed to be a rightful heir, they could not work together. Name-calling was common. Commoners were courted and wooed.

There were plenty of commoners who still wanted royalty over them. Now the big question was, "Who among the royalty should we have over us?" The commoners had plenty of choices.

When commoners became disappointed in the behavior of their royal favorites, they often immigrated to a different kingdom. It was common for some people to jump from kingdom to kingdom.

Wanting a change

Sometimes a new kingdom would consider establishing a different system from the royalty of Rome. The plague had educated many people about some flaws in the class system of Rome.

But more often than not the talk did not lead to any significant changes. There would be brief moments of hope, but the excitement soon turned to disappointment. Usually control and money became the obstacles in the way of change.

Inevitably members of the royalty assumed the prerogative to establish their own salaries. In some cases the royals paid each other the same high salaries they had enjoyed in previous kingdoms.

The royalty was successful in recruiting royalty from the previous class system. Oftentimes the bigger prize was not attracting the individual member of royalty but the number of commoners the new recruit would bring with him to the kingdom. As you can see, the old class system was perpetuated in the smaller kingdoms.

As you can imagine, these types of behavior irritated and frustrated many commoners. For the longest time they felt trapped. After all, they were only commoners.

Yet, if it hadn't been for a few commoners paving the way, many other people would still be trapped in that class system.

Believing an illusion

In "The Emperor's New Clothes," Hans Christian Andersen wrote about why people are quick to believe an illusion.

In that story two greedy men pretended to be tailors. They appealed to the vanity of the emperor and his advisers. They created the illusion that only superior people could see the clothing. They said their clothing would remain "invisible to everyone who was unfit for the office he held, or who was extraordinarily simple in character."

Some advisers went separately to check on the progress of the clothing. Each did not want to be considered "a simpleton or one unfit for his office." Therefore the advisers bought into the illusion.

When the emperor went to see the progress of the clothing, he thought to himself: I can see nothing! This is indeed a terrible affair! Am I a simpleton, or am I unfit to be an Emperor? That would be the worst thing that could happen. Oh, the cloth is charming.

This story has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it? In the Bible we read that the Laodiceans think their clothing is nice (Revelation 3:17-19). But they are naked. God brings them back to reality.

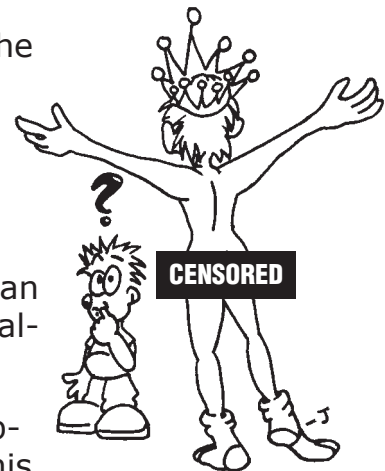
A little child

Also in "The Emperor's New Clothes," Hans Christian Andersen showed that a commoner helped people finally accept the truth.

When the emperor first paraded on the street, his subjects cried out: "How splendid his majesty looks in his new clothes, and how well they fit! What a design! What colors! These are indeed royal robes!"

After a while the voice of a little child was heard to speak up:

"But the emperor has nothing at all on!"



A young person spoke the truth. The young person was not seeking to gain favor and was not afraid to lose favor. It was the truth.

After the child spoke the truth, the people began to realize the obvious. They cried: "But he has nothing at all on!"

It was great when the people accepted reality. Yet how did the royalty react to the truth?

Notice the conclusion of the story: "The emperor was vexed, for he knew that the people were right; but he thought the procession must go on now! And the lords of the bedchamber took greater pains than ever, to appear holding up a train, although, in reality, there was no train to hold."