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Jesus Apparently Doesn't Want Government To Help Poor, Sick, And Injured To Get Healthcare

by: [Autumn Sandeen](#)
 Tue Aug 18, 2009 at 16:00:00 PM EDT

Have you ever read the parable of [The Good Samaritan](#)? It's the definitive read for those who self-identify as Christians for how to define who a good neighbor is, and how one should treat others as oneself. It's a [parable](#) of pious faith leaders not helping an injured man -- left beaten on the side of a well-traveled road by robbers -- when they should have treated the injured man as a neighbor. A Samaritan -- a spiritual [pariah](#) -- was "the other" that helped that same injured man by being a neighbor to him.

So, when some conservative "Christians" read this story with regards to the healthcare reform debate; however, they have come up with a different conclusion than the obvious ones. From the [OneNewsNow](#) article 'WWJD' - about [healthcare reform?](#) comes this take on this parable (link for dictionary definition of [polity](#) added):



A health policy expert at the Cato Institute believes Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan provides insight into why a new government health insurance program is a poor idea.

Michael Cannon, the [Cato Institute's](#) director of

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The Christian Civic League of Maine's Mike Hein calls Pam's House Blend:

"a leading source of radical homosexual propaganda,

health policy studies, recently published a blog post on the think tank's website titled "Health Care Reform: What Would Jesus Do?" The post, written by Cannon's father -- a Catholic theologian in Northern Virginia -- took the familiar story in the Book of Luke about a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho who "fell among thieves" and was "left half dead," and applied that to the current debate in America over healthcare reform.

Cannon says while everyone has an obligation to help those who are less fortunate, it is important how that duty is fulfilled. He contends President Obama's desire for the government to carry out that responsibility is misguided because Jesus did not instruct his followers to form a polity or put their charity to a majority vote before acting to help those in need...

Quoting the referenced piece from the Cato Institute directly (emphasis added):

[More below the fold.]

Autumn Sandeen :: Jesus Apparently Doesn't Want Government To Help Poor, Sick, And Injured To Get Healthcare

There was a man (M) going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who needed health care (Luke 10:25-37). All bypassers were free to provide for him or keep walking. The Priest (P) and the Levite (L) used their freedom in one way and the Samaritan (S) used his the another way.

...WWJND? He did not say that S, P, and L should agree on the level of care and funding for M and chip in. Maybe He realized that P and L had a bullet-proof majority. Maybe He realized the time, attention, care, funding, and personal touch of S were very important. Maybe He realized that even if M got to an inn, the innkeeper would be at risk for exceeding guidelines and would have to wait longer to be reimbursed. Maybe He realized the devil was in the details and could complicate or possibly compromise M's care: the timely availability of government run donkeys (ambulances); inns (hospitals); professionals at every point in the chain and in between; plus, auditors to prevent fraud and abuse. The moral lesson Jesus drew was: use your freedom to care for your neighbor and do not hand it over to P and L if you want your neighbor and yourself to get to Jericho...

There's more to be read in both the OneNewsNow and the Cato Institute pieces. Frankly, my head spins with the twisting of the spirit of the story to come up with a reasoning not to provide via government to care to the poor, sick, and injured.

I've now read a twisted theology for not developing an effective government means for treating the neighbors you can't see with your own eyes as oneself...Now I've literally seen everything. If this theology espoused by OneNewsNow and the Cato Institute is what their God meant for us to take away from the story of The Good Samaritan, then Christianity is a truly abominable faith in its most basic of doctrines.

Fortunately though, I believe it's safe to say that this twisted theology isn't what many Christians I know believe Jesus meant in that parable.

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anti-Christian bigotry, and radical transgender advocacy."

He is "praying that Pam Spaulding will "turn away from her wicked and sinful promotion of homosexual behavior." (CCLM's web site, 10/15/07)

Ex-gay "Christian" activist James Hartline on Pam:



"I have been mocked over and over again by ungodly and unprincipled anti-christian lesbians."

(from "Six Years In Sodomy: From The Journal Of James Hartline," 9/4/2006, written from the "homosexual stronghold" of Hillcrest in San Diego).

"Pam is a 'twisted lesbian sister' and an 'embittered lesbian' of the 'self-imposed gutteral experiences of the gay ghetto.'" -- 9/5/2008



Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth Against Homosexuality heartily endorses the Blend, calling Pam:

A "vicious anti-Christian lesbian activist." (Concerned Women for America's radio show [9:15], 1/25/07)



WWJD about healthcare reform in the United States? I'm pretty darn sure that it isn't what OneNewsNow and the Cato Institute suggest Jesus would want us to do; I'm pretty darn sure that Jesus would actually approve of using government to assure that the poor, sick, and injured received adequate healthcare.

Tags: Christians, Fundies, Cato Institute, Jesus Christ, Healthcare Reform, Boggles the Mind, (All Tags)

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Lepers had better present themselves to the High Priest then

since that was Talmudic law and Jesus deferred to it ehrrn he healed the lepers in the Gospels.

Shall we notify the CDC to send out a "report the the high priest" alert for diagnosed and successfully treated cases of mycobacterium leprae?

Hey! We're the Left. We don't need no stinkin' guns We're the commies, remember? We use Molotov Cocktails

by: MauraHennessey @ Tue Aug 18, 2009 at 15:07:30 PM CDT

How funny...

That they so dismiss the Social Gospel, which they don't like, while simultaneously picking and choosing which commandments in Leviticus must be shoved down all our throats. Yep, those darned religious righties (mis)interpreting the Bible whichever way they want...

We shall overcome.

by: atdnext @ Tue Aug 18, 2009 at 15:10:15 PM CDT

Ironic that he would use this story

Ow talk about taking something out of context! The argument Jesus uses this very story to make is that the one who actually takes the time to help is a true neighbor. No matter what the image or status of all the rest who should pass by might be. Also at the end of the story the Samaritan drops the injured man off at an Inn and pays the owner to nurse him back to health promising to repay any extra bills on his trip back. If that doesn't speak to a public option I don't know what does.

Always thinking about it...

by: kudo451 @ Tue Aug 18, 2009 at 15:21:29 PM CDT

As I've heard it described...

"Text out of context is pretext."

The religious right is nothing but pretext.

by: TechBear @ Tue Aug 18, 2009 at 15:34:11 PM CDT [Parent]

The religious right is nothing but HATEFUL

Lets just be honest about them, they don't follow any of the teachings of the Bible.

Greed, yup, they got that down pat

Love thy neighbor, Nope, scare the shit out of them to pony up more money.

We know the list can go on and on. Bottom line they have become a Hateful bunch.

If I make sense? it was quite by accident.

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