

Dear Friends,

I haven't been glued to my TV to see the January 6th hearings, but have watched some of it and went to a couple trusted sources and give me the highlights. In our study of Isaiah, it seems that this prophet would know our nation and world pretty well. "The more things change, the more they stay the same." The prophet Isaiah (and others) warned the nations about corruption, about the zeal for power, wealth, and fame, and the detriment of neglecting the poor, the widow, the orphan, and seeking true justice. Watching how Trump and the "Republican" Party used each other over the past 6 years to gain more power for themselves and thinking that they could control the other and America is a case study in "How to anger the LORD, your God!"

This is all riding together in an Orwellian mix under the heading of "Christian Nationalism" in which candidates are now trying to outdo one another in showing their 'patriotism', their "Evangelical" faith, and their worship of the 2nd Amendment. This is meant to leave out those who aren't true Christians or people of any other faith. This is meant to leave out those who don't look (skin color) like the leaders (political, media, and social media) of their party. This is meant to control women, minorities, and have the base ready to attack anyone who disagrees with them. Just look at the 'Republicans' who testified against Trump and what they are being called, "RINOS (Republicans In Name Only)" is the nicest thing that is said. Their ideology and their tactics are frightening and should be a concern for all Americans. No matter how much these 'leaders, pastors, and commentators' try to claim Jesus or doing God's will, they are the false teachers and preachers that Isaiah called out and Jesus engaged with them to show them their blind spots.

For Jesus plainly said that all the prophets and laws are summed up in this, "To treat each other as you want to be treated." To love God, our neighbor, and ourselves is to show mercy to anyone and everyone. We still have time to repent, to turn toward God. We still have time to undo most of the damage of Roe vs. Wade, banning books and topics and people in classrooms, and keeping that wall to separate the Church from the State. We still have most people in our country on the side of righteousness, decency, and caring for the least of these. Gun control, abortion rights, and voting rights are still popular and solidly favored in our country.

May we heed and our leaders heed the warnings of the prophets and listen to the stories of our teacher Jesus of Nazareth, "Who was the one who showed mercy? Go and do likewise."

Peace
Pastor Enno