

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #23

“The 7 Ideological Signs of Socialism”

Part 2

I. Introduction

A. Review

1. Ideas have consequences!

2. The greatest determining factor to the quality of life we live is our thought life; what we think; how we think; the ideas we allow in our heads; those ideas have consequences.

Theme

Ideas are *thoughts*. Our lives consist of the consequences that result from our thought life.

3. The Bible says it this way...

Proverbs 23:7

As a man thinks in his heart so is he.

4. The sum total of our thoughts determines our ‘ideology’.

Ideology

A system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy

5. In the same way the thought life of an individual determines the destiny of a person *so the ideology of a nation determines the destiny of that nation.*

a. This is the secret of America’s greatness, as noted in this from Christian writer...

Larry Alex Taunton

I love what my youngest son Zachary said: “America is the greatest country in the world because of the idea of America.”

b. Leaders from other lands have long known this; the great English novelist G.K. Chesterton said this over 100 years ago....

G. K. Chesterton

“America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed. That creed is set forth with dogmatic and even theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence.”

c. England’s greatest modern Prime Minister said it this way...

Margaret Thatcher

“Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy.”

Bono

Lead singer of the Irish band U2

“America is not just a country; it is an idea.”

6. America was founded on a Judeo-Christian ideology; but today we find ourselves in a battle with those who hate the Christian ideology that made America great want to replace it with another ideology. So we say that...

Theme

The greatest threat to America, as founded, is National Socialism; it is an evil political ideology that will always bring evil consequences.

7. We have been looking at...

The 7 Ideological Signs of Socialism

- 1. Socialism is atheistic by nature**
- 2. Socialism is antichrist by nature**
- 3. The principles of Socialism violate God’s law**
- 4. Socialism comes at the cost of personal liberty**
(Tonight we will look at #5)

Socialism displaces the biblical doctrine of personal responsibility by creating a culture of victimization and entitlement within the people groups it seeks to control.

Let’s begin by looking at...

II. The Biblical Doctrine of Personal Responsibility

A. The Parable of the Talents

1. The central subject in the teaching of Jesus was the Kingdom of God and He taught the great truths of the Kingdom in many parables; the biblical doctrine of personal responsibility is set forth in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

a. This parable proves the principle of personal responsibility as opposed to the socialist ideology where the government is responsible for our economic well-being.

Jim Driver, TheUnion.Com 7/31/20

This is not a story we often hear from the pulpit. Our times still exalt a socialist ethic where making a profit is suspect, and entrepreneurship is frowned upon. Yet the story relays a readily apparent ethical meaning, and even deeper lessons for understanding human accountability in economic life. Does this parable suggest that Jesus was a socialist? Obviously it proves that He was not!

2. In this Parable, Jesus sets forth His agenda for how He expects us to live between the time of His departure and His second coming.

Matthew 25:14-15

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

a. Jesus is the 'man traveling to a far country'; He calls His servants and 'delivers His goods' into their hands.

b. Notice: Jesus is not a socialist who seeks to make sure everyone gets an equal amount of goods; He does not distribute an equal amount of gifts, but He does give each one an equal amount of personal responsibility as to how they will use whatever He has chosen to give them!

c. Notice, Jesus is not a communist, He is a capitalist! The 'talents' represent 'capital'; that which God gives us to manage and increase.

d. The same principle is illustrated in a similar parable in the Gospel of Luke:

Luke 19:13

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

e. The command to ‘occupy’, in the Greek, means to ‘do business’.

Luke 19:14

'Do business till I come.'

3. The story continues with Jesus’ description of a capitalist economy where each of His servants is responsible for how they steward or manage what He had given them.

Matthew 25:16-19

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

a. Let this be a lesson to all of us; there will come an accounting for what we have done with whatever God has given us!

b. When Jesus returns, He will judge us according to how we used whatever He entrusted to us. Notice that the Kingdom of God requires works!

Matthew 16:27

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

c. Our modern American church has done a great job teaching on the grace of God; not so good reminding Christians He will judge us by our works.

Revelation 2:23

...And all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

4. The next verses confirm the biblical concept of capitalism and personal responsibility:

Matthew 25:20-23

20 "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' 21 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

Father Robert A. Sirico

This parable relates to how we are to use God's gift of grace. As regards the material world, it is a story about capital, investment, entrepreneurship, and the proper use of scarce economic resources. It is a direct rebuttal to those who see a contradiction between business success and living the Christian life.

a. Notice 2 things: each servant must give an account to God for how he handled the 'capital' entrusted to him and that God is pleased with those who invest and prosper in their business.

b. But He is not pleased with the one who won't work.

Matthew 25:24-27

"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.'

5. Notice that this 'wicked servant' failed to invest his capital, He had a wrong view of God! He saw his Lord as "a hard man'-he was afraid to take a risk; he was afraid of losing what little he had; he had no idea that there would come an accounting based upon works.

6. This is a similar spirit to what we see today with a spin; many American Christians have a wrong view of God but it's a little different. We have forgotten that the 2nd Coming is not about rescuing us from our personal responsibilities; the 2nd Coming will be a judgment of what we have done with whatever God has chosen to give us!

7. Many miss the point of the parable: the Kingdom of God is not a socialistic society where God equally distributes rewards; it is a capitalistic culture where God rewards the responsible worker.

Matthew 25:28-30

So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

8. A quick review of the parable proves...

Jesus is Not a Socialist

- 1. He does not distribute the talents equally**
- 2. He does not seek to micromanage what we do with our talents**
- 3. He holds each of us personally responsible and accountable for what we have done with our talents**
- 4. He rewards us according to our works**
- 5. He is not bound to any idea of an equal redistribution of wealth**
- 6. On the contrary, He gives more to the one who has (because of his faithful works) and takes away the little from the one who does not have (because of his lack of work)**
- 7. He will not accept excuses from those who refuse to accept personal responsibility**

9. When we understand Jesus' teaching on personal responsibility we can move to our 2nd point on...

II. How Socialism Displaces the Biblical Doctrine of Personal Responsibility

Theme

Socialism displaces the biblical doctrine of personal responsibility by creating a victim mentality and a sense of entitlement within the people groups it seeks to control.

A. Make No Mistake: The Goal is Control!

1. Socialists gain power by creating cultural conflict.
2. The Socialist strategy for acquiring power is outlined in their textbook, “Rules for Radicals”, written by community organizer Saul Alinsky.

Saul Alinsky
(1909-1972)

- Neo-Marxist/Socialist
- **Outspoken critic of American capitalism**
- **Formulated a systematic approach to seizing political power through galvanization of communities**

Galvanize

To cause a person or group to suddenly take action, especially by shocking or exciting them in some way.

Saul Alinsky, Rules For Radicals

“The despair is there; now it’s up to us to go in and rub raw the sores of discontent, and galvanize them for radical social change.”

3. The chaos in the streets of America today is the direct result of socialistic strategy working behind the scenes.

Saul Alinsky

“In the beginning, the organizer’s first job is to create the issues or problems.”

- a. We can see socialist strategy at work as they have taken isolated incidents of police brutality and created the issue of ‘systemic racism’.

4. In Rules for Radicals, Alinsky lists 8 levels of control that must be obtained before you are able to create a socialist State. One of the 8 strategies is the creation of ‘Class Warfare’.

“Class Warfare”

The political tension and economic antagonism that exists in society consequent to socio-economic competition among the social classes or between rich and poor.

Saul Alinsky

“Fan the hostilities of low-income inner city residents. Search out controversy and issues rather than avoid them.”

a. Here is how they do it...

Socialistic ‘Class Warfare’ strategy calls for the creation of a sense of victimhood and entitlement in the group of people they wish to control.

B. The Victim Mentality

1. The sociologists tell us that the...

The Victim Mentality

Victim mentality is an acquired personality trait in which a person tends to recognize or consider themselves as a victim of the negative actions of others, and to behave as if this were the case even in the face of contrary evidence of such circumstances

a. A psychiatrist says...

Ofer Zur, P.H.D.

“The victim stance is a powerful one. The victim is always morally right, neither responsible or accountable, and forever entitled to sympathy.”

b. Notice how the victim mentality displaces personal responsibility!

Pastor Sunday Adalaja

“People with a victim mentality find it impossible to depend on themselves to solve the problem; they tend to wait on a savior.”

c. If you see yourself as a victim, you will excuse yourself from any responsibility for your situation; you will always see yourself as someone entitled to sympathy. But it can get worse...

Dennis Prager

“Perceiving oneself as a victim may be the single biggest reason people hurt other people. Nothing enables people to do evil as much as does a sense of victimhood.”

2. A sure sign of socialistic ideology at work is a culture that plays...

THE VICTIM CARD **Get Out of Responsibility Free**

3. The victim card is as old as the Garden of Eden where Adam where God confronted a sinful man who refused to take responsibility for his sin. We’ve all played the Victim Card at one time.

4. But socialists seek to create ‘collective victimhood’ among the people groups they seek to control.

The Victim Card

A sense of collective victimhood produces fear and anger and results in the emergence of a belief that violent action and the tendency to seek revenge is morally justified.

5. This is what’s happening on our city streets today; the socialists will seize upon one incident where there is one victim, then convince a ‘collective’ group that they are all victims and thusly justified to seek revenge in violent actions like looting and burning.

Stefan Molyneux

“Baseless victimhood is usually the last stage before outright aggression.”

- a. Socialist strategy is to convince an entire people group that they are all victims even though only one of their group is a true victim.
- b. One protest sign at a recent riot tells it all:

Protest Sign

Our futures have been looted from us...loot back!

6. It seems insane to collectivize victimhood to justify revenge against those who had nothing to do with the original offense; but this is the work of socialistic strategies at work.

a. Chicago BLM Leader said this in front of a burning store where protesters were openly looting the merchandise:

Ariel Atkins

Chicago Black Lives Matter Leader

“This is reparations. Anything they want to take, take it because these businesses have insurance. They’re going to get their money back. My people aren’t going to get anything.

7. One has to wonder why so many good people, even Christian people, seem to be going along with them.

Lance Wallnau

“Under the guise of racial reconciliation, pastors are signing on and genuflecting and joining in nervously so as to be politically correct and not realizing that they are working with an organization that is Soros funded, anti-Christian and anti-family.”

a. It’s sickening to see how many well-meaning Christians sign on to the socialist strategies of Marxist groups like Black Lives Matter; some pro athletes are now making donations to the group, having no idea that they are supporting a movement that wants to overthrow our Democracy.

Josef Stalin

The murderous Russian leader Josef Stalin referred to those in Western countries who were sympathetic to socialist causes as his ‘useful idiots’.

b. Today, the socialists see Christians who support BLM as their ‘useful idiots’.

Lance Wallnau

“If you really believe black lives matter then don’t support Black Lives Matter. Because I believe black lives matter more than Black Lives Matter matters. For the simple reason that Black Lives Matter doesn’t care about black lives. It cares about power.”

8. Socialism gains power by displacing the biblical doctrine of personal responsibility with a victim mentality; and secondly by creating...

C. A False Sense of Entitlement

1. What is it?

Entitlement Mentality

A state of mind in which an individual comes to believe that privileges are instead rights, and that they are to be expected as a matter of course.

2. A sure sign of socialistic ideology among leftist politicians is the effort to convince Americans that what was once a privilege is now a 'right'.

- Everyone has a right to universal health care
- Everyone has a right to a free college education
- Everyone has a right to prosperity

Mona Charen

“The entitlement mentality, so carefully cultivated by liberal academics, politicians, clergymen and journalists, continues to corrode the self-sufficiency that once defined the American character.”

3. Here are the...

Characteristics of the Entitlement Mentality

- A lack of appreciation for the sacrifice of others
- A lack of personal responsibility in expecting others to solve their problems or to admit that their problems are of their own making
 - An inability to accept the fact that actions carry consequences
- An increased dependence on big government to intervene to solve personal problems
- A misinterpretation of our Constitutional right to 'the pursuit of happiness' to mean a Constitutional 'guarantee of happiness'

a. Motivational speaker Steve Maraboli sums it up:

Steve Maraboli

“A sense of entitlement is a cancerous thought process that is void of gratitude and can be deadly to relationships, businesses, and even nations.”

III. Close

America is at the Crossroads; a choice between 2 ideologies:

- There is the biblical doctrine of personal responsibility as taught by Jesus in the Parable of the Talents
- Then there is the Socialist ideology that teaches us that we are victims who are entitled to salvation from the Government

On November 3rd, America will choose a side.

CLOSING PRAYER