

Den of Robbers

At various times in the past year, the editor of usmnews.net has received notes from CoB faculty that contained Bible verses and other Christian sentiment. It is notorious that many administrators and other faculty members in the CoB attend Christian churches and claim to be Christians.

Among the definitions found in the Random House Dictionary, abridged version, for the word Christian is “a person who exemplifies in his or her life the teachings of Christ.” So, a Christian is someone who follows the teachings of Christ. With that as a beginning premise, consider the following:

Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “My house will be called a ‘house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’” – The Holy Bible, New International Version, Matthew 21:12-13

What did Jesus do in the preceding passage?

1. He identified an abuse of the temple. The temple was to be a “house of prayer,” but the buyers, sellers, and money changers had turned the temple into a “den of robbers.” Jesus identified an abuse.
2. He took action against the abusers. “Jesus...drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers....” Jesus took action against the abusers.
3. He spoke out against the abuse.

What did Jesus NOT do in the preceding passage?

1. He didn't avoid the temple, hoping to avoid the conflict.
2. He didn't allow the robbers to stay in exchange for a cut of their profits.
3. He didn't placate the robbers or allow them to “save face” by allowing them to leave the temple on their own terms.
4. He didn't make excuses for the robbers.
5. He didn't allow his belief in kindness toward His fellow man to cloud His judgment or weaken His resolve to destroy evil.

Some of those in the CoB who claim to be Christians would do well to consider just how hypocritical it is to claim to be a Christian and then espouse Christianity only in the convenient moments of life. They seem to only want to do the “Christian” thing when it doesn't cost them; it's much easier to say “Do unto others...” than it is to actually confront the robbers in the temple. Jesus did both, and He did them at the appropriate times. Unfortunately, too many of the CoB faculty, Christian and non-Christian alike, have decided that evil is something to be exploited rather than driven out. As long as evil can get you a pay raise, why fight it? After all, that's the way the world works, right?