

Political Expediency Over Principles

In the world of political intrigue, deception and illusions are used to cover-up the real objective. In military strategy, Sun Tzu, an ancient Chinese general, put it very simply. Deception is the art of war. You can easily see it in modern day politics. We had no warning of the attack on our embassy. It was not organised before it happened. Judge Jeannine on Fox News gave an interesting view on the original story, and the actual facts. Her verdict: Obama should be impeached. Very interesting.

China is still an expert in these matters. By making small, minor changes, they are giving the illusion that they really are improving their human rights record. Time will tell; but will it be too late? How is Hong Kong doing, since it reverted back to China? In spite of promises to maintain the status quo; the changes are always tightening up on their freedoms.

One of the more flagrant violations is in Shandong province. There is, or was, an one hundred and twenty five year old church that was started by Anglican missionaries. Even though they complied with all the government regulations; the church buildings were demolished. Why?

There are a variety of sham excuses given. One of the better ones; is that the church is not safe. Therefore it has to be torn down, to protect the people. However, there will not be another church built to replace it. But the now vacant lot will not be wasted. It just happens that a developer has come along, and after greasing a few palms, will take it off the State's hands.

On the surface, this might appear to be like the many other occurrences of people being driven off their land. Some are resigned to their fate, and accept pennies on the dollar for their property. Some resist the invaders. After being threatened and assaulted; they finally give up. But this is a coverup for what

really is going on with the Christian churches.

The leaders of China are still paranoid of people's apparent divided loyalties. So they suppress religion, mainly Christianity, as much as they can. Bhuddism is an exception, especially at New Year. The Chinese leaders, the Communist Party are afraid of Christians; especially when the Pope recently said that China will soon be the largest Christian nation. There are now more believers in churches, than members in the Communist Party. And so, the crackdown. If churches are willing to take down their crosses; they can escape this round of closures. And the non-government approved, underground churches are thriving. Even though they are arrested and imprisoned; they are resilient in their faith.

God's People have run into this many times throughout history. However, God always brings His People through. So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done! Then Queen Esther answered and said, If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss. So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing? And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman! So Haman was terrified before the king and queen. Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther, pleading for his life, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. When the king returned from the palace garden to the place of the banquet of wine, Haman had fallen across the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, Will he also assault the queen while I am in the house? As the word left the king's mouth, they covered

Haman's face. Now Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said to the king, Look! The gallows, fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai, who spoke good on the king's behalf, is standing at the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him on it! So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's wrath subsided. (Esther 7:1-10)

No matter what happens; God is still in control. He sent His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ down here to Shed His Blood, and pay the penalty for our sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ has advice for everyone. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (John 3:7)

He still wants you to spend Eternity with Him, and His Heavenly Father. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. (Acts 16:30-31)

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Romans 10:13)

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