

Shaken pt 4: When do we make waves?

Intro: Wave Pool Story:

- when I was about 14 my family did one of those day trips to a local waterpark
"Raging Rivers ,,,, we're cool when its hot"
- Raging Rivers had a shrewd upcharge business model....
 - chairs, lockers, rafts, all extra
- my dad did not play the up-charge game..
- I distinctly remember the downsides of a water park with **no raft**
-the worst was THE WAVE POOL
- They had this big pool with room for hundreds of people it had 10 minute cycles:
 - still water & waves
 - during still water you could swim and play.....
 - once this machine started making waves, the WATER GOT ROUGH
- I imagine this rough water was great fun for those with rafts....*
 - I would try to stay out there swimming in 4 ft waves with no raft*
 - by the third cycle I was SO EXHAUSTED, it became Dangerous.....**
- I must have looked like I was in trouble because some nice woman asked me if I would like to hold on to her raft,,, so I waited out that third wave session with this concerned woman.**
 - being a teenage boy I immediately thought I had discovered a new method for meeting girls,,, the "rescue me from drowning method"*
 - but after further testing, I discovered this first woman was the only one who cared enough to invite me onto her raft, so I abandoned this as a dating strategy

Question: What if some of us are making waves in areas of life that would otherwise be peaceful?

-Are there things we are doing or ways we are thinking, that are TRIGGERING TURMOIL?

-Over the last number of weeks we have been looking at all the ways in which our lives are SHAKEN and learning about what it takes to be Steadfast when everything around is in turmoil.

-1 Peter 2: 11-17 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

13 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

For Jesus followers, there are certain areas of life where we are expected to buck the system of what goes on around us; and there are areas where God expects us to play nice with what is around us.

-There are circumstances where we should be clearly countercultural and then there are times when we are told be salt and light within the culture.

-different but not disruptive

-John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

-the Roman governor Pilate asked Jesus, if he was a King

-Jesus tries to explain that He is a King, but not in the sense that Pilate understood

-Jesus had no interest in using the Political power structures of Rome, Israel, or any other nation

-Jesus was setting up a kingdom that would function differently than any human systems

-different objectives and different methods for accomplishing those different objectives. (whole different kingdom)

-The Kingdom Jesus set up SUPERSEDES all human kingdoms but it does not nullify them.

-God keeps the kingdoms of this world in place for now.

-because people do not willingly submit to God's rule.

-so the physical rule of government is still necessary until humanity is fully redeemed.

-heaven the resurrection..... the elimination of evil, rebellion, and sin

-Christians have a primary allegiance to God's Kingdom.

-God's rule, God's ways of doing things, and God's agenda should come first in our heart and priority

-But God calls believers to be Loving, Servant-Hearted participants in the world around us,,,,,,, in any way we can that does not violate obedience to God.

-We belong to King Jesus, but we serve Jesus THROUGH our involvement in human systems.

- community involvement. -government service. -on your job. -in your family
- in and through the church: its many ministries and partners....
- volunteer organizations -school board. -coaching

-we serve Jesus through our involvement in these systems around us.

-Having discussed all that, Peter's words may hold new significance, lets look again

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-There are sinful patterns of living that are normal in the world around us that we are called to oppose in our own life.

- we are not told to attack or belittle others in this world who live that way
- but FOR US we treat those sinful patterns and desires as if they are AT WAR AGAINST OUR SOUL ,,,, because they are!!!!!!

- self indulgence. -pride. -greed. -materialism. -rage
- violence. -radical individualism
- idolatry of lust and sensuality
- idolatry of so many other kinds,,, trying find Fulfillment in temporary created things rather than the CREATOR

-these things deteriorate our soul

- they eat away at who we are and what we are
- they detract from all God made us to be

-When it comes to personal sin we are called to live a countercultural life.

-be like foreigners & exiles.....

-in that sense we live very distinct lives from our surroundings

-But, when it comes to our community, our government, and all of its systems: In this area we not called to be countercultural.

- those things Are not to be treated like our enemy

-God has established the government and community systems around us. Those things are actually his servants to help manage his world.

-scripture says that the governments are God's servants to punish evil and reward good

-those are IMPERFECT SYSTEMS

-they are run by broken and sinful people

-God allows these systems to continue, imperfect as they are, just as he allows you and I to continue, imperfect as we are.

-the government will make wrong choices,,, but so will you

-the government will abuse power,,,,, but so will many of us

-the government will do ridiculous things with money,,,,, but so will we

-they will under react in certain situations,, and overreach in others

-the government will at times do good things,,,,, guess what so will you

-Governments will be as messed up as people are.

-Because they are human systems made up of humans.

-I am not calling on us to condone or further any of the failures or abuses of government, but let's go into this with a realistic understanding of the inherent limitations.

-government or any system will never be any better than people are

For some reason God is committed to partnering with Humans and allowing our choices to play out.

-Sometimes that turns out good and often times it is not

-If you are concerned that there might be crooked things or mistakes in the government,,,,, let me assure you of something,,,,, THERE ARE.

-that is because people are broken and flawed and sinful

-Governments and all human systems are a mixed bag, and that has always been the case.

-even still God instructs Christians to: honor, submit and serve

-Let me tell you what that means for us today:

-Our suspicions of incompetence or even questionable intent do not nullify the instruction to honor and submit.

-Romans 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authority because there is no authority except by God's appointment

-This is not easy!!!! This requires me to Humble myself, over and over again.

-This requires me to trust God even when things dont make sense to me.

This doesn't mean that you have to like it or agree.

-God has given us responses for when we think things are not right:

-pray -1 Timothy 2:2 tells us to pray for those in authority that we may lead quiet peaceful lives

-on top of that democracy creates other options in addition to praying

-we are in a slightly different scenario governing than our first century friends.

-we get to vote, and we can actually participate in our government in many different forms

-so vote for who you want,,, and then pray for them

-if the one you dont want gets elected, pray for them,,, BUT STILL HONOR THEM

-if you dont like any of your options to vote for,,,,, run for office yourself

-maybe your dissatisfaction is the root of a God calling you to serve and lead

-if God has given you ideas for solutions bring them to the table in a positive way

-but still HONOR.....

-You are never serving God by Dishonoring another person or a government.

-whether it's verbally or digitally

-we are called to Honor

-Respect is earned but Honor is given

-Respect reflects the quality of the person being Respected, but Honor reflects the quality of the person displaying it.

-There are so many systems of authority that God has instituted in our lives.

- family. -school. -job. -community agencies and organization
- local government. -state government. -federal government
- God has instituted or allowed all of those to be in place in your life.
- rom. 13:1 no authority except what is ordained by God....

- These institutions help make up the world we are living in.
- they are part of the Pool: will it be a wave pool?* To a degree its up to us

If you want Peace and a Steadfast life that Honors God then, know which pool to float in and which to make waves in.

- Honor those God has allowed to be in authority.
 - you dont have to feel a sense of respect,,,,, you dont have to agree with them
 - but you are called to Honor
- As a kind hearted loving Servant, be a light in the systems of society around us.
 - as we rediscover what society will be,, be a positive, life giving PART.....
- As one who has the EAR OF GOD, PRAY for those who carry the burden of Leadership.
 - Be a positive presence in that pool**

- But remember, there is a sense in which you are called to make waves.**
- There are sinful desires, common to this world.
 - those things are at war with your soul
- Dont allow that stuff in your life,,,, Fight against it,,,,,, in this area dont just go with the flow.

-We invite unnecessary turmoil into our lives by participating where we should be resisting, and resisting where we should be Prayerfully Honoring and Submitting.

We are freed up live this way when we recognize that God truly is our source.

-Understand that God is ultimately God. Dont get mad at people. Go to the source.

-make your requests known to God

-do your business with the one who actually has ultimate power

-Mad at a mayor,,,,, Mad at a governor,,,, the president ??????

-Talk to the one who has allowed them to be in authority.

-Look back at some of the stories in scripture: God rebuked governing officials, groups and assemblies.

-God is capable of correcting leaders and situations

*-he may not do it in your time table or according to your paradigm, **but he is God***

-Your provision or lack there of is ultimately in God's hands not any government.

-your justification and vindication or your rightness is in Gods hands

-God will reward the righteous and God will Judge the Wicked

-When we trust him to do his part, it sets us free to do ours.

-God wants you to live a life Characterized by Peace.

-in words. -in thoughts. -in our hearts. -in our social media

-he wants you to be a blessing to the people and the community around you

-he wants to to a spring of water welling up to eternal life

-he wants you to be light in dark places

-Dont invite unnecessary turmoil into your life. Dont participate where you should resist. Dont resist where you should honor and submit.

-Peter spends some time explaining how this idea impacts many aspects of life: family, government, work, the church, every interactive area of life together.

-but then he sums up exactly how we act in all of these situations in

-1 Peter 3:8-9 finally all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

-Jesus died to turn you into a blessing. Through you he wants to bless your surroundings.....