

# Asking the Wrong Questions

by David Melechinsky

Americans were recently appalled and horrified by the reports of yet another massacre at a public school, this time in Newtown, Connecticut, a town this writer used to visit each Sunday in the early 1970's. May our prayers rise to heaven for the souls of those whose eternities unexpectedly began on that frightful day, and for their loved ones left behind to pick up the pieces and sort out what happened.

Perhaps even more appalling, if such is possible, is the instantaneous and incessant feeding frenzy by media pundits and other advocates of total government control of everyone, attempting to politicize this tragedy into a further excuse to expand federal bureaucracy and disarm law-abiding citizens. Already these are beating the drums for scrapping the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and to turn every school into a militarized federal prison camp where everyone entering is suspect until he or she has been patted down/ strip searched/ x-rayed by federal agents for possible "weapons of mass destruction". As if inanimate weapons somehow *caused* the tragedy. As if the perpetrator(s) of the crime had no responsibility in the matter. And as if the perpetrator(s) were not ***already in violation of multiple laws*** that had already been passed in the wake of previous school-shootings, allegedly to prevent such things from happening again. It was, after all, already highly illegal for him to (among other violations) bring such things into a public school, where even the possession of a harmless toy pistol (or even drawing a picture of one) can result in draconian penalties for innocent people. Laws against weapons only disarm the law-abiding, create a false sense of security and assure would-be criminals that they will face no armed opposition from their intended victims. Adding yet more laws offers no more protection to the law-abiding, but rather further erodes their safety by restricting their ability to defend themselves legally. Many are the incidents in which crimes and tragedies have been averted by a woman, an old man, or an invalid who had ready access to a gun and knew how to use it. Such stories do not get nationwide coverage. They might cause people to think!

Thinking is something that is feared by advocates of unlimited government. People who stop to think might start asking the "wrong" questions. Like, why is it that, while guns have been legal and readily available in the USA for centuries, it is only in the last couple decades that we see massacres in public schools? What has happened to make public schools such dangerous places? I attended public schools for 12 years, ending in 1969, and will not deny that there were plenty of incidents of students being beaten up by other students, but there was no need, nor demand, for armed guards, metal detectors, or signs announcing that the schools were gun-free zones. What has changed? Is it related to the fact that parents can no longer allow their children to go walking the downtown streets of the Big City and expect them to return home unmolested, as my parents used to do?

Could it just ***possibly*** be related to the court-ordered bans on prayer and "religious instruction" in public schools that began in 1962? Is it ***possible*** that there might be a difference in outlook and behavior between (a) a generation that was taught that there is a God, that He has created us for a purpose and given us Commandments, and that how we spend eternity depends on how well those Commandments are kept; and (b) a generation raised on the notions that God is a myth, people are mere accidents of nature, the material world is all there is, and all that matters is getting ahead, seeking pleasure and avoiding pain? There ***certainly is*** a difference. And there are those, in power, who prefer dealing with the latter type, as they are more like the lower animals and easier to manipulate, like cattle.

For generation (a), very few laws are needed for them to live together in a peaceful, orderly, and (as much as possible in this life) happy society. For generation (b), there is no number of laws that can be sufficient to keep them from using and abusing one another and descending into absolute servitude to an unseen master who will keep them alive for as long as they are deemed useful.

Next time you hear a politician or media pundit extolling "separation of Church and State", try to read between the lines and think about what is really being said, and the motivation behind it. What the rulers of the expanding secular State seek is to achieve and maintain ***independence from God's Laws***, which they find inconvenient to their tyrannical plans. They intend to make ***themselves*** into society's gods, ***answerable to no higher power***. Which is to say that all citizens would then be required to worship at the altar of the almighty

State. Already our “democratic” government has, on paper, powers vastly more far-reaching, intrusive, arbitrary, micro-managing, and totalitarian than the most tyrannical medieval kings, plus all the tyrants of the 20th century combined. There are so many laws on the books that no one can keep track; so many normal human activities are now illegal or restricted that probably every American violates several laws each day without knowing it, or without knowing what penalty the State may lay upon him or her if someone decides to enforce them. And, *materially* speaking, there is nothing we can do about it except demand that our congressmen refuse to vote funding for the agencies in charge of enforcement. This would, of course, require a majority of Congressmen to have sufficient knowledge and courage.

...OK, just because it’s impossible doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try! But what *else* can we do, that does *not* require co-operation from our “elected” leaders? Well, before we can fix a broken society, we have to fix ourselves. We could start by turning off the infernal TV set and its unending barrage of noisy, flashy propaganda designed to dull the senses and stifle thought. Then we could open a good book... perhaps that Bible that’s been gathering dust. We could open it to Matthew, Chapter 5 and start reading, discussing each verse with family members, observing how Our Lord’s teachings clash with those of our budding New World Order, and how the lives of everyone would improve if more people took them seriously. And how *not* living by them leads to tragedies like Columbine and Newtown. Thinking on such things will lead to new thoughts as to how to apply these teachings to our own lives.

We could do that. If enough of us did it, it would change the world for the better. We don’t need a majority or anything close. God rarely uses majorities to accomplish His works (You might remember His one personal experience with “democracy”, on the first Good Friday). He built His Church with a very unlikely crew of eleven men, who, after a bad start, became determined to do God’s Will at all cost. And cost them it did. Most died a martyr’s death. Such may await some of us as well. God is not outdone in generosity.

Or we might pretend that things will get better if we let the secularist ruling class have their way in building the Global Maximum Security Cell, where everything will be taken care of for us, and nobody will be allowed to have sharp things. Except, of course, for the Caretakers who will be standing by with that last injection when we have been deemed to have outlived our Usefulness. We can pretend that the Enforcers and Regulators will have our best interests at heart, unlike the “Terrorists” from whom they are protecting us. We can even pretend that the worst terrorists will not get themselves hired as government agents or elected as our leaders. If such be your desire, pretend, and sleep well, for a rude awakening is at hand.

But if the prospect of the universal, micro-managed padded-cell existence does not please you, it’s time to trust in God rather than men, elected or otherwise. The government did not create you, nor did the bankers, the insurance companies, the medical industry, the media, nor the entertainment/sports industry. None of the above ever suffered or died on the cross for your eternal salvation. Only God has done this for you. Can you afford to continue to serve the whims of the materially “rich and powerful”, while ignoring the laws of God, Who Is alone Almighty?

Recently, the so-called “Mayan doomsday” came and went, and the world did not end. Or did it? For those who happened to *die* that particular day, it certainly *was* the end of the world. Every one of us will certainly, and unavoidably, face our own individual “doomsday” sooner or later. No one knows the day or the hour except God, and He’s not telling. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow. We have today to begin reconciling ourselves to Him to Whom we owe our existence. Prayer and penance are a good start toward making the world a better place to live, one soul at a time.