

# Maximising Redemption: Responsibility & Intent

*Will you ensnare the lives of my people but preserve your own?*

Ezekiel 13:18

## Personal Responsibility

Irregardless of the health of our governments, local institutions or community; there is a need to strive for personal mastery. Souls granted grace by God can have the ability to elevate the behavioral standards around them, even if only to a limited degree. The more people who are genuinely making the effort to be in a proper relationship with God, the easier it is for God to bring healing to either a local community or the global consciousness. Hugh Mackay in his book "Generations" talks about the need to find a balance between the rights of the individual to the needs of the community. Mackay postulates that societies become dysfunctional when they are too hedonistic or narcissistic when the whims of individual outweigh the needs of the broader community. Conversely, a society that does not acknowledge the need for independence and respect at an individual level is usually on a continuum towards tyranny and repression.

To turn this planet around will require not just God's grace, but also a commitment by individuals to intervene at a local level. One of the big issues that many of us are contemplating is how to intervene to protect our youth from falling prey to charismatic fascist/tyrannical ideologies. In many ways we are going through the "grief cycle". First of all there is denial that the problem exists or is relevant to us, then there is anger and recrimination that the problem does exist and must be accepted, then there is negotiation where we try to pass the blame or make it somebody else's problem, then there is healing where we take ownership of the problem and start to work on solutions.

Because my son was identified as a potential conduct disorder child in 2003, I have personally had to deal with this issue (plus embracing loving my son even if he turned out to have my father's psychiatric disorder). Rather than staying in denial, I underwent a lot research into the area and looked at what could be done to assist in terms of family support and positive reinforcement/discipline models. Praise to God that my son is normal, but the research left a useful legacy for helping others such as the two papers "What's In A Name" and "Example Conduct Disorder Intervention". Again, there are plenty of better examples out there, but these show how an individual can subtly help their community to undertake early intervention before a problem escalates. "What's In A Name" serves a second purpose; it shows that there have been souls subtly working against "war footing" "hate propaganda" in the fight against terrorism.

## Intent Outweighs Legalism

Jesus exhorted us that to look beyond the legalism of holy tenets to God's intention. Binding ourselves in legalism can actually hinder our relationship with God (we are so busy on the "to do" list that we neglect to stop and commune). Jesus was very aware that the deceiver can entangle souls in meaningless mazes. For example,

currently there 613 mitzvah commands. Now assuming some poor soul actually manages to fulfill all 613 commands, what's to stop the deceiver adding another seven? And did Abraham, Adam or Noah have to meet all 613, and did they read the Torah/Bible/Koran for that matter either?

[Hebrews 11](#) makes it clear that faith transcends the letter of law. Absolute faith in God can create new precedents, whereas legalism limits you to what is already understood. It was only by the absolute faith of the patriarchs and matriarchs that Judaism even evolved into having the written Torah. Without the faith prior to the Word, the Word would never have been documented.

Further, relying on the legalism leads to impossible conundrums or allows perversions in precedent to supersede godliness. For example, men who mistreat women because of their dress codes whilst failing to notice that their conduct have exposed their internal lewdness. External appearances do not always give the measure of the soul e.g. [Zechariah 3:1-4](#). How we dress may or may not be pleasing to God. There are times in the bible where God dresses up women, only to reduce them to nothing because they become proud and ignore that it was God who provided for them e.g. [Hosea 2:8](#). Conversely, there are others who dress demurely to give an external appearance of humility but inwardly they are still arrogant. **'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the women who sew magic charms on all their wrists and make veils of various lengths for their heads in order to ensnare people. Will you ensnare the lives of my people but preserve your own?'** (Ezekiel 13:18) (And as a caveat both genders can make the same errors). Once again we are exhorted to trust God to see into the hearts of our souls.