

Daily Meditation 02/24/2023

Lent 2023: Is Rupert Murdoch a Father of Lies?

Good morning.

We continue our meditations today on the sad and dangerous story that has been unveiled for all of us to see in the emails that went on behind the scenes at Fox News, when there was a decision to flee from facts, flee from the truth, and chase after falsehoods, conspiracy theories, and put on the air, give a microphone to dozens of crazy people speaking crazy theories about a lost election...I suppose a lost election... and putting this into the airwaves, television waves, kind, and of course into people's hearts and minds and souls and stirring up passions.

And of course, this resulted not just in the January 6 debacle, but also in many state houses where laws were passed to prevent all this chicanery from ever happening again. The laws were backward designed to put barriers between the democratic possibility of voting by all citizens. So many citizens who were poor, or people of color, have been finding that voting is much, much harder for them now than it was previously because of these lies fanned by Fox News chasing its customers so they would not jump to another right-wing media outlet but they would stay with Fox.

So I suggested yesterday that maybe we should practice a Lenten practice of giving up Fox News for 40 days and 40 nights. And in today's meditation, I go to the leader of Fox News, Rupert Murdoch, a multi-billionaire, who has in fact, disrupted democracy on three continents and three countries: Australia, his homeland, the UK, and the United States. I really wonder why he has so much against democracy and democratic nations, that he wants to destroy them through the weaponry and the power of his tremendous media conglomerate. He certainly is a hard working man of immense intelligence to have pulled all this off, maybe even some luck. He pulled all this off.

But there's something missing in that soul. What is his purpose? After all, this system of capitalism and democracy has served him awfully well. If his goal in life is money and power, he's there. He's got it. But if his goal in life is to be a person of integrity, who we can respect and remember with respect, he's lost it. Hope he can get it back. He doesn't have an awful lot of years on earth. He's 91 years old, and time's running out.

And this time of Lent is a good time to reflect on our mortality and what we're leaving behind. And it would be a fine thing if he were to take his power and steer it toward building up democracy, instead of tearing it down. And being not the father of lies...not the father of lies, but a father in search of truth, a father of truth and truth telling.

After all, in tradition, Satan is called the father of lies. Is Satan being challenged by Fox News and its exaltation of lies, where it's paying its employees \$35 and \$45 million a year to disseminate lies? It sounds like Satan has got a race on his hands here.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.