

A Sermon on Responding to Being Protested

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for May 24th, 2020 (and beyond)

This particular sermon is inspired in part by Monty Python and Jonathan Blank. Having been on both sides where I've both protested and been protested in return, I believe all protestants and protestant recipients may benefit from this example which is a little Bhagavad Gita and a little Socratic Method for the sake of avoiding being spiteful hypocrites since Jesus Christ greatly disliked/dislikes hypocrites. I dedicate this sermon to law enforcement (particularly Snohomish County Sheriff's Office), protesters, and the protested.

Protestee: What is the subject of your protest? How have I offended thee?

Protester: You've broken the law and I'm here to expose you.

(Law Enforcement/Regulatory Bodies: If you have evidence of a crime or violation of law, we prefer you report it in a timely fashion to the proper authorities in a manner that doesn't taint the evidence as being motivated by anything other than a true desire for justice with no ulterior motives.)

Protestee: What law say you I broke?

Protester: You have jaywalked repeatedly and I've got the video to prove it. Jaywalking is a serious misdemeanor and puts lives at risk by creating traffic hazards.

Protestee: Are you trying to extort me or just bored? Why don't you turn me in if I'm such a criminal?

(Law Enforcement/Regulatory Bodies: Ahem...That protester is right on the line where one false move and some charge related vigilantism.)

Protester: I'm reporting it right now and there is no extortion. I am not bored. I just thought you should know what is coming your way when I report this crime. Consider this a citizen's arrest until law enforcement arrives. Texting right now with video attached.

Protestee: I'm going to press charges against you for false imprisonment or kidnapping if you prevent me from walking away.

Protester: Go ahead and see what happens. The police are on their way.

Protestee: I'm walking and not using a crosswalk, film this too.

Protester: I am, I'm getting all of it on my phone right now and live-feeding it to law enforcement. They need to know!

Law Enforcement: Hello, are you Protester? Did you report multiple jaywalking violations via text? Where's the perpetrator?

Protester: They walked away officer, and they didn't use the crosswalk either. I've got it all on film. Here's the evidence and it was live-streamed to police headquarters.

Law Enforcement: Can you identify the perpetrator? Do you know the name of the jaywalker?

Protester: I didn't get a name. I just saw Protestee breaking the law repeatedly and filmed it waiting for the opportunity to catch Protestee in the act and today, right now it just happened.

Law Enforcement: We'll file a report and record the incident while keeping the video on file in the event we can catch Protestee in the act and match against a line-up of suspects. We'll get right on that.

Protester: Thank you. I knew I could rely on law enforcement to do the right thing. Don't let me catch you crossing the street without using the crosswalk either, cops have to obey the law too.

Law Enforcement: Which direction did you say Protestee went? Can I take a look at the video and will you stay right here while I apprehend the suspect? I'll be right back.

Protester: Yes, I'll wait.

Law Enforcement (returning): I couldn't find Protestee, I guess it's everyone's lucky day. Have a good one. I hate paperwork anyway.

Protester: If I catch Protestee in the act again, I'll call immediately and start taping.

Law Enforcement: That's really not necessary, I believe we have all the evidence we need in the event Protestee is captured or there is a warrant for arrest. I'm sure you'd like the same consideration should you be accused of a crime like harassment, menacing, or attempted kidnapping?

Protester: I wouldn't deserve it if I broke the law.

#Kafkaesque

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.church/feedback.htm>. For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.church> and <http://www.heal-online.org>