



Grain

“It’s not the size of the building or the size of the ad, it’s the determination and the passion put into the fight.” Mother of daughter who was sex trafficked referring to their attorney, Erik Bauer (from “I am Jane Doe” documentary)

Field

23 When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ... 31.5 "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." Matthew 21:23, 31.5-32

Thoughts

We have examples of individuals and groups that don’t begin with a lot of material power making a visible impact. The documentary, “I am Jane Doe” talks about the parents of sex-trafficked girls trying to hold the multi-million-dollar business, Backpage, accountable for facilitating the sale of their daughters and other victims online. The families lost in court with their first attorney, and they couldn’t find another lawyer to take their case until they met Erik Bauer. Bauer ran a small business ad and worked out of a modest law office but from the beginning he was convinced that because what Backpage did was so morally wrong they could win a case against them. After several road blocks fighting against the wealthy business the families with Bauer won after a couple of years. The win didn’t put a final end to the sale of children and adults online but was a step forward. More changes will need to include building upon good public policies, raising more awareness, and addressing systemic problems in our culture that relate to our attitudes and the demand for commercial sex.

Jesus also demonstrated authority from his humble station in life, power that went beyond what the elders and chief priests could fathom. We are invited to align ourselves with that same authority as we advocate. Yet powers can get twisted. Some Christians have infused a lingering anti-Semitism into Mt. 21 wanting to pit Jesus, who was Jewish, against Jews because of how he confronted some of the elders. There can also be confusion about the word “prostitute” in relationship to sin. As one of the girls from the “I am Jane Doe” documentary said, “It took me awhile to realize that I was not a prostitute. I didn’t like that word. I was a child.”

May God grace us all with clarity to sort through words to walk with the power of the Word using whatever resources we have to advocate. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy