

The Vacuum as It Relates to the Statesman

The seventeenth century French philosopher Blaise Pascal described a vacuum in the heart of each human. I am convinced this vacuum has profound implications for the Statesman. Specifically, I would like to discuss with you the implications in the life of the Statesman of leaving this vacuum unfilled. Pascal's statement is:

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each human which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ.

This vacuum has implications for the Statesman personally and for the people the Statesman is called to serve. It speaks of an empty place in the life of every individual. How does this apply to the Statesman? This has great significance for the Statesman who has responsibility not only for his own life but also for the lives impacted by his decisions. Jesus made a profound statement to His close followers that provides some insight as He was, I believe, addressing an aspect of this vacuum:

Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it (Luke 10:23-24).

The reference point Jesus gave was the mysteries that the prophets in the Old Testament of the Bible spoke of – mysteries so profound that the prophets themselves did not understand that of which they spoke. The mysteries of which the prophets spoke was a work of God. Furthermore, the desire of these prophets to understand these mysteries was a work of God. God, through Jesus, was here explaining that kings also wanted to understand the mysteries of God with the same hunger as the prophets. Clearly, this interest on the part of kings, and those who serve in Government, is a special work of God. It is a special work of God in the lives of those who serve in Government because of the significance of their decisions in the lives of people they serve as a part of achieving our Creator's plan for well-being:

That we [humans] may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity (1 Timothy 2:2).

I submit to you that the two vacuums of which Pascal and Jesus spoke are closely related and have a two-fold purpose in the life of the governing leader.

First, this vacuum represents an intense effort to draw the leader to God for his or her personal sake. God loves the Statesman as a part of His deep love for all of His creation. And He cares about the quality of life and the eternal destiny for governing leaders as human beings. Jesus, as God, expressed this when He explained:

I came that they have life and have it to the fullest (John 10:10).

Jesus was clarifying that every human being, Statesman included, cannot have life to the fullest without embracing Jesus.

Second, filling the spiritual vacuum fills the vacuum of the need for understanding by the Statesman of the purpose of our Creator within His designed world order. For example, one king (David) expressed this to God:

You reveal the path of life to me (Psalm 16:11).

Then, we have God speaking to this same king:

I will instruct you and show you the way to go; with My eye on you, I will give counsel (Psalm 32:8),

leading this king to assure us:

The counsel of the Lord stands forever (Psalm 33:11).

This is tremendously reassuring to the one who must make decisions affecting the lives of the people.

God, clarifying further His intentions to one of His servants in a way I am convinced applies to each of our lives:

I am with you, ... I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will hold onto you with My righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:10).

This promise of God holding us by the hand, leading and guiding us, is tremendously reassuring to the Statesman. When we have a personal friendship with God that fills this vacuum, He guides us along the loving path He has for us. This has immense implications for the Statesman. As a part of the vacuum we are addressing, the Statesman often does not know the decision to make in fulfilling His responsibilities and needs God to fill this vacuum in guiding him. Thus, leaving the vacuum unfulfilled has great implications for the Statesman and, especially for those he or she is called to serve, as decisions are easily made inconsistent with the good our Creator intends.

There are also implications for the personal life of the Statesman when one considers that this life is a pathway to our eternal existence – either an eternity with our Creator in heaven, or an eternity separated from Him referred to as hell.

How does the Statesman fill this vacuum? Let us return to the statement that Pascal made:

There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each human which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ.

Pascal, consistent with everything our Creator has taught us, made clear that this vacuum must be filled uniquely:

only by God the Creator made known through Jesus Christ.

Referring to this issue, Jesus made clear that His death is the one and only payment for the consequences of our sin nature that separates every individual from God, as He paid the penalty for us which no human is capable of paying for oneself:

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).

And the result:

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will never die – ever (John 11:25).

Each one of us must claim this payment that has already been made on our behalf by Jesus and is freely available to us.

APPLICATION TO THE STATESMAN:

Have I addressed the vacuum that God has lovingly placed in my life to remind me that I need His help?

Do I understand that leaving this vacuum empty hinders me from meeting the needs of my people as God intended?

Am I willing to humble myself and embrace Jesus as the One and only One who can fill this vacuum in my life as Pascal prescribes and has eternal consequences for me?