

What Were You Thinking?



Seeing God in Albany, New York

There are easy ways (without thought) to assess the recent Eliot Spitzer “fall” – a Republican might pass it off as: “Democrats! What do you expect?” Democrats could as mindlessly conclude: “Right-wing conspiracy!” In any event, if it were possible, all would like to have an answer to just one question: “Eliot, what WERE you thinking?”

It is easy, from a position of superiority, to look at the “underclass” in jail, on Jerry Springer, etc., shake our heads and conclude they are just so stupid they don’t know better. But what do you say when someone obviously VERY smart does something so inexplicable? An attractive wife. Children he obviously cares for. He had to know it was very likely anything and everything he did would be revealed. How do we **rationaly** explain what he did (and why) and can we learn anything from these events to help us personally?

Throughout most of history, similar occurrences could be explained by most people (who would learn from and be warned in this understanding) but in 21st Century America we are at a loss to find good reasons for these periodic unexplainable bizarre episodes – Eliot Spitzer, Clinton with Monica, OJ I, II. . . they just don’t make sense UNLESS and apart from something beyond the physical and material driving, compelling, leading . . . people to do really, really dumb, and often terrible, things. If you want to see “real-time” examples of similar actions you will find them at the [Dateline NBC To Catch a Predator](#) website; these people are not different from Spitzer (or us when we do similar things)! You can be sure (in spite of the common refrain “I wasn’t thinking . . .”) they, Spitzer and we are thinking and rationalizing before and during “stupidity.” In fact, most of us do our “best” (often about the only) thinking when we are doing what is wrong – it takes more thinking to function in the dark – when we are conniving, plotting, scheming . . . how to fool and trick other people. You can be sure Eliot had to do some real thinking about how to deceive others about where and what he was doing.

Who, however, has not been at a loss later (when simply reflecting or after being caught) to recollect a single meaningful thought or legitimate excuse for what was is now so obviously patently wrong and/or foolish?

Seeing God in Albany, New York (your Hometown and your home)?

God is spirit Jn 4:24

Yes, throughout most of history, bizarre incidents could be explained by most people (who learned from and were warned by them), but in 21st Century America we are at a loss to find good reasons for these periodic unexplainable, off the wall, events because the prevailing thought is “seeing is believing” as not seeing is not believing. So, what cannot be seen is too often disregarded as somehow unreal in spite of everyone’s personal experience and evidence of great non-material (spiritual) urges, drives, desires, impulses, cravings, compulsions, forces . . . too often explained and rationalized as materially based, but obviously greater than any physical basis and drive.

Maybe the greatest evangelist for God is the wakeup call that comes from the confusion resulting from dissatisfaction with today’s prevailing “material only” philosophy – offering no answers or hope

to what is **really** happening all around and within us. We can self-righteously deny we are Spitzers, but in the inevitable times of **personal** failure this will not offer us help or hope; or we can look to the *Bible* (as people have done in the past) for answers. *The New York Times* could hardly be called good news – it simply reports the sordid facts without offering any hope and help.

It is no accident that since we have more and more ignored the *Bible* (those calling themselves Christians) or ridiculed it as foolishness (non-Christians), we understand less and less what is going on around and in us. The common reasoning? “Oh, things are much more complex today . . . there are so many more temptations . . . blah, blah, blah.” This is utter foolishness! Never, in history, have so many people had it so easy! Tempted to steal because we are short of food, clothing, etc? No! Repressed sexually? No. Sex (of virtually any type) is more available and accepted than at almost any time in history (short of the most decadent and perverted societies near their end). Yet in spite of almost anything being both available and legal, people still want to go beyond the limits.

Those denying themselves access to the Good News (the *Bible*) are at a terrible disadvantage – they will not understand “the times” or themselves other than materially and one-dimensionally (Jesus remarked about this to the material-only folks of his day: “You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.” Mt 16:3). But life is not one-dimensional – what is unseen is greater (for better or worse), by far, than what we see; for when our stomachs are full (as they almost always are now) we will then be living primarily in the spiritual world – with its own rules. To begin to know these rules and set of law is far greater power than denying their reality!

Yes, Spitzer, Clinton, OJ (as well as those doing good things – which, unfortunately, is far less often reported) . . . can teach us much and make us aware that “But for the grace of God . . .” – His *Bible* being one of the greatest graces we either eagerly take or reject! Oh, that we could learn from the mistakes of others, in the light on context of the Good News – the news that helps us understand rather than simply know about events (which too merely increases our pride and self-righteousness when we foolishly think we are better than and above other people); the Good News (the *Bible*) will show us ourselves in the worst of others to drive us to earnestly seek God and His grace and, in the process, reduce the number of our own stupid and wrong actions!

Is Eliot Spitzer a real (rather than simply a professing) Christian? I hope so, both because I have learned from it and so he can then find hope even in the face of his fall – if not, he will probably never understand why he did what he did and will probably (consider the sad example of OJ) continue a downhill slide.

