Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Guilt
[Text] Genesis 3:8-13; 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32; 1 Timothy 4:1,2; Matthew 26:75; Romans 8:1

Most of us have experienced feelings of guilt in our lifetime. It is a predictable part of the human experience.

According to Seattle, Washington’s Daily Weekly, after an hour of deliberation January 21, 2011, a Bernalillo County, New Mexico jury found Phil Mocek not guilty after refusing to show his ID and for using a video recorder at a TSA checkpoint in 2009.¹

When accused of a crime you didn’t commit, the words “Not Guilty” are essential to being able to move forward in life.

Guilt, however, is not always connected to a crime. In fact guilt can be both justified and unfounded. The emotional sense of feeling guilty may be associated with or caused by shame, fear, sorrow, anger, distress about something for which we are not remotely responsible.

This past weekend, the question, “What makes you feel guilty?” was posed to a few friends on Facebook. No respondents reported that they had committed a crime or even a sin.

Several respondents indicated that family was a source of guilty feelings. Mothers recounted feeling guilty about not being a good enough mother to their children. One Mom felt that she had to lie that she was happy having a second son when she felt the “perfect family” consisted of a girl child as well as a boy child. Another felt guilty for having to set boundaries with a family member that another member in the family thought unreasonable.

Use of one’s time was another guilty factor: not using ones time wisely or resting when there was still energy to keep working.

One friend asked if the feelings he still had from an experience that occurred to him while in college was guilt or shame—a flashback every time he passed a certain building. Another admitted to being overly sensitive and ashamed that she keeps ruminating on past events when something someone said or did “hurt” her.

Our Bible Study this week reminds us that we can suffer from guilt for the wrong reasons. It is a tool of the Devil who loves to keep our negative emotions stirred up! We are not held responsible for the behavior of others or for unforeseeable events.

On the other hand guilt can motivate us to make wrongs right and experience the freeing forgiveness of the One who bore our guilt so that we can live life free from this potentially paralyzing emotion.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

~ck

1. Seattle Weekly

¹ Seattle Weekly
Jury Finds Phil Mocek Not Guilty of All Charges From TSA Arrest

By Keegan Hamilton

published: Mon., Jan. 24 2011 @ 2:42PM

UPDATED on Monday, January 24, with comments from Mocek.

After an hour of deliberation Friday evening, a Bernalillo County, New Mexico, jury found Phil Mocek not guilty of all four charges he faced after refusing to show his ID and using a video recorder at a TSA checkpoint in 2009. If you're keeping score at home, that's Mocek: 1, TSA: 0.

Reached by phone, Mocek was obviously pleased with the verdict. "A jury looked over the situation and found I wasn't guilty of the things I had been accused of," he said. "That's satisfying."

Mocek says he did not plan on being arrested when he walked into the airport last November, but he did anticipate a hassle since he didn't have his ID.

"I definitely planned to fly home when I walked into the airport on that day," he says. "In the past, when I flew without ID there was always at least some additional hassle. And when I have either flown without ID, or when I presented ID but simply asked the TSA representative what would happen if I didn't have ID to show, most of the time they were not familiar with TSA's stated policies. So it's reasonable to expect that no matter the circumstance, if you go to the airport with a boarding pass and no documentation of identity, there's going to be additional hassle."

Mocek also noted the value of recording his interaction with the TSA officials, and encouraged other citizens to do the same when dealing with police and other public servants.

"People who have something to hide while working as public employees and interacting with the public tend to prefer not to have a record made of their interactions with the public," Mocek says. "We've found out a lot about behavior of police in Seattle that we would not have known if someone had not been there with a camera."

He says he hopes others will use civil disobedience to learn about TSA's secretive procedures and reaffirm their individual right to air travel. However, after his arrest and trial, Mocek says his flying days are over.
"Unless I suck it up and compromise my principles," he says. "I won't be flying anytime soon."

The original post follows.

According to Edward Hasbrouck of the Identity Project, Mocek did not testify, and the defense rested on Friday without calling any witnesses or presenting any evidence. Hasbrouck attended the trial; he writes:

The jury found that even without rebuttal, the TSA and Albuquerque police had failed to satisfy their burden of proving any of the four charges: concealing his identity, refusing to obey a lawful order (it was never entirely clear whether this was supposed to have been an order to turn off his camera, an order to leave the airport despite having a valid ticket, or an order to show ID, none of which would have been lawful orders), trespassing, and disorderly conduct.

Here's a report from the local Albuquerque TV news station, with Mocek's reaction shortly after the verdict was announced:

And today, Mocek released a portion of the video he recorded shortly before his arrest:
Excerpted from an Identity Project email:

Despite calling themselves "officers", TSA checkpoint staff are not law enforcement officers and have no police powers - and both TSA and police are fully aware of this. When the TSA calls for the police, they are just like any other civilians who call the police, and the police have no obligation to do what they ask.

F@#% these pigs! Hope he sues them and ruins their miserable stinking lives. How's that for "civil discourse"?

My spouse ia real fed LEO> Folks are mall cops.

Based on your communication skills I think we're all fortunate that you aren't the "real fed LEO>".
Savatage  9 hours ago

All of these "police" are guilty of filing false reports. At no time was he yelling or raising his voice (as these false reports say). The cop testified in court that Mr. Mocek never raised his voice and was cooperative. Mr. Mocek has been cleared of any wrongdoing. These "police" got together (conspired) and got their stories straight, then all filed false reports. Each corroborating the others' stories. There had better be some ramifications for the "officers" and TSA "supervisors" involved!