

Crystal Cathedral, Tall

Ar. 7:15

Tch. 7:45 - 8:45

New bldg, 2nd Fl. Looks like big office bldg.

On Chapman, past Cathedral

96 51 on Chapman

Went to Cathedral. Just past it
turn left. 5-story white bldg.

Subject.

a. hand is diff.

b. " " abused

c. How to get it used better.

d. Morality of common property.

Talk + take qns.

A. How land is diff.

The conceit of self-reliance. L
We relied on no Govt. we helped ourselves.
But God made the magnif. nat. res.
to which our forebears helped themselves.

1. Who says it isn't?

a. "You & God have made this farm flourish"
"You shd. have seen it when God had it
all by Himself."

A story that caters to man's conceit, he
does it all. Try to grow corn & tomatoes n. of
Arctic Circle, with or on bad soil, appreciate God's
contribution. // Also caters to man's greed - denies ~~the~~ ~~the~~
the owner's obligation to God, & to God's other children.

b. Most ^{acad.} econs.

They have catered to this conceit.

It was not always thus. 19th cent.
econs. clearly dist. land from labor & K.

But this ran afoul of man's conceit &
greed; desire of owners to shake off their stewardship
obligations, set themselves up as a separate class. (over)

So new ec. theories were developed,
- neoclassical - in which land is merged w. K,
both created by human effort & saving.

c. Growing secularism helped this move
along.

Defenders of stewardship doctrine
secularized their message, & weakened it. They
said l.v. is a social product, results from
presence of pop. Again, played on man's conceit.

Like children of Abraham willfully breaking
The Covenant, the conditions on which they
got The Promised Land

There's enough truth there so they convinced themselves they had a winner. But in this age of reaction vs. crowding, NIMBY, no-growth, fear of overpop., ~~no~~ ^{the} weakness of that rhetoric is apparent.

Pope. doesn't drop create Mt-top that store our water supply; nor send the rains; nor the sun. Pope. doesn't put aquifers under our feet, or oil in Wilmington Basin. Pope. doesn't clean & renew our air supply daily. Only God does those things. ^{This} is our Promised Land.

God ~~has~~ ^{is} been generous, but not infinitely so. He left some responsibility to us as his stewards. "Help yourself" ~~don't~~ to many has meant ~~"take"~~ "serve yourself"; & take all the credit & keep all the heavens & the rights to future heavens.

Land is limited. Only way to get more is for someone else to have less.

K, save & create.

Labour, work more & get more.

Land, can only take.

- Cf. writing a song or book
- Basis of mpy.

B. How land is abused

1. "Leaving a dirty campsite"

2. Throwing garbage on yr. neighbor's campsite

Air pollu.

Aquifer pollu

Stringfellow

Nuclear waste, State of Wn.

~~Kesterson - wildlife habitat destroyed~~

~~either directly or in~~

China - mamme leakage

Bunker Hill - upper Sta. Ana. from

Norton AFB

Intimidating cyclists bicyclists & pedestrians & swimmers

Toxic runoff

Kesterson

Gt. Lakes

L.I. Sound; Ches. Bay

Grading

Oil spills

3. Wasting exhaustible res. prodigally

a. Cutting w/o replanting
 " 100%, leaving nothing for
 beauty, inspiration, stream cooling, reseeding, watershed.
 prot., wildlife, recre., air quality

(Tax causes - forestate)

b. Underpricing energy from petrol. by
 subsidies (incl. tax subsidies).

Subsidizing demand also. (this in-
 cludes failing to charge for pollu.)

~~4. Wasting~~ c. Extensive vs. intensive use. Not enough
 reforesting etc. recovery, ~~too~~ too much land-grabbing exploration.
 100 m.a. under lease; small % actually producing.

"Sitting on" rentable reserves while

~~4. Wasting~~ questioning after usual. ones. Shd. have developed horiz. drilling
 30 yrs. ago, but most money went into land-grabbing.

4. Hydro-imperialism.

Wasting local wtrs while grabbing
 remote wtrs. Sta. Anna R.

Subsidizing wtr. use. Colo. R.

Invading Sierra prematurely - Hatch Hatch
 While Alameda Ck. held on standby.

✓ Hydro-imperialism is a ^{metaphor} symbol of larger problem: undermine of good land, coupled w. premature invasion of ungrd. land. (My possible future convenience is worth more than your current dire necessity.)

✓ 5. Wasting flowing res. ^{invisible waste} is most common ^{waste} ~~type~~.
 Non-use of ~~flowing res.~~ is ex. res. may be saved for future.
 Non-use of flow, res. saves nothing, ^{waste} only Services perish w. passage of time. Like letting wtr. flow into the sea, only worse. Wtr. may be used by someone downstream.

I have a s-u. exposure. Warm sunshine every day. Is only so much. Plant pear.

We have a time slot. Use it or waste it.
 "Strangers & sojourners" w. the word.
 #

If I had more, I cdn't use it. Cdn't consume the produce if I did. All I cd. do wd. be preempt it - keep some one else from using it.

I'd then be consuming it. For what else does it mean to consume land - keep others out. Invisible cons; invisible waste.

"Consume" is a misleading word — we think of it as "using up" a stock of goods like food. We have ^{common} word to express preempting a time-slot, ^{using-up or} as a consumption reflects a failure of perception, & reinforces it. ‡ "Hogging" comes close, but is unfair to hogs. "Sitting on" comes close.

To hold land w/o using it is "using it up" — wasting this year's time-slot.

Isaiah saw it: "We unto them that join house to house, & lay field to field, until there be no place..."

Is one owner in D.C. who "sits on" ca. 65,000 ac. What's wrong w. that? 100,000 people in Moreno V. commuting to D.C. on 91 Frey. + unknown thousands of homeless.

Is also vast underused area in S. Central L.A. Another kind of underuse. Drastic renewal policy needed.

For, user means use up. employer, habiter, and user de mean occupy time slot.

‡ "Sit on" is colloquial; & is etym. of possess. Ger. besitzen.

✓ engross
✓ With holdin,

✓ Preempting

✓ Hoarding

✓ Sitting on

✓ Monopolizing

✓ Tying up

✓ Speculating in

fencing

excluding

preclude

Locking up

forestall

C. How to get land used better

Stewardship of land needed: social stewardship.

- produce goods & services. Supply side etc.
- generate incs.: wages, int. & profits,
~~profits for rent~~ to suppliers upstream, + ~~for~~ everything
 downstream
- pay taxes

D. Justice in distribution.

Take what you need & leave the rest.

Land shall not be sold forever.

Land peculiarly affected w. a common interest.

EARTH DAY, CRYSTAL CATHEDRAL

1. "Every Day is Ladies' Day with Me"

Remember, EARTH is a lady: she's your Mother!

Remember, every day is her day. Not just once in 20 years!

Remember Tom Lehrer's message re Nat. Brotherhood Week.

Oh, the poor folks hate the rich folks
And the rich folks hat the poor folks
All of my folks hate all of your folks
It's American as apple pie.

But in Nat. Brotherhood Week, Nat. Brotherhd week
New Yorkers love the Puerto Ricans 'cause it's very
chic
It's fun to eulogize the people you despise
So long as you don't let 'em in your schools.

2. As a land economist I love Earth Day, but it shames me for my profession. Ecsts. neglect Earth badly -- half of them even deny there is such a thing, it's just a minor subdivision of "capital," not significantly different. The other half aren't so bad. We say land is different, and the solution is to economize on it.

I have 24 differences, why land is distinctive. No. 1 is it was not produced, not stored up, it was Created by some Force outside man. Not just Created but maintained, every day the sun rises.

3. It also came with a manual of instructions. A Covenant. Not 100% clear, but certain ideas keep repeating.

a. This is your promised land, that I give you to possess. Sounds like a possessory interest. Nowhere does it say I give it to you to own.

b. The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine, and you are strangers and sojourners with me. It is just a possessory interest.

c. You must do justice. Share with the poor.

d. Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, until there be no place, that they may be alone in the midst of the earth.

There is only so much land. You can build a big house by saving up capital, take from no one else, add to total stock of wealth. You can write a song and share it with millions. But you can only get more land by keeping it from others. It is fair to conclude God is not happy with several of s. Calif's largest landowners who hold land off the market while homeless people struggle to survive in cardboard shelters on the streets.

e. If you fail to keep the Covenant, you're out! Don't

blow it. Don't think I'm giving you another Promised Land if you mess up this one. Rather, I'm taking it away from you -- off you go to captivity in Babylon.

4. Everyone gives Earth Day his own twist. Many of the dominant ones strike me as contrary to the manual of instructions.

a. Anti-population. Bible says be fruitful and multiply. The good news is, the leading anti-populationist, Paul Ehrlich, is at end of life coming around to a good economic view, i.e. the problem is not so much people, but people who consume more than their share of land. I'll return to that theme.

b. Anti-immigration. I'm for some controls, but much immigration pressure comes from nations where our govt. supports oligarchies where 1% of the pop. owns 60% of the land. That forces the dispossessed to emigrate. It would make more sense to shift our support toward promoting more justice in those lands, or at least just get out and stop supporting injustice. Then their poor wouldn't have to emigrate. Maybe some of us could migrate there.

c. Anti-demolition, preservationists. These seem to overlook the time-sharing exhortation, "the land shall not be sold forever." To me that implies it is ok for Pickfair to be demolished for the next generation of use.

d. "Ecosploitationists." E.g. of RANPAC, Temecula. Won Yoo offers to sell part of "his" Sta. Rosa Plateau to Cty., to "honor Earth Day," for 12 times what he paid for it 2 years ago.

Cf. Zeckendorf and his rendering plant.

5. The right twist

We should consume less land. But what does it mean to "consume" less land?

A. Pollute less. Avoid destroying land, or creating entropy. Builders may be getting a bum rap here, will return to that.

B. Occupy less. How to turn a small lake into a large one. Case of Lake Arrowhead; Kaiser motorboat at L. Tahoe; swimming in Wisconsin; etc.

C. Own less. What does it mean to consume land? To exclude others. Most land doesn't wear out. Its services perish with the passage of time, and are lost forever. Land is a potential, every year, every minute. Use that potential, or release your surplus for others. "Take what you need and leave the rest," is the proverbial wisdom.

5. Conserving land then is not preserving it or hoarding it, but using it intensively.

6. That doesn't mean using the entire Earth intensively, but the contrary.

It is amazing what a small piece of land produces when used intensively. E.g. forestry. John Baden's short course in forestry: grow timber where it is warm, wet and flat. Do that and there is no need to invade rainforests, and steep slopes in the Rockies, etc.

E.g. my garden. Problem is not producing food, but storing and distributing and preparing and serving it. Farmers always crying about how little of the food \$ they get, but that's all they deserve. A good Harvestore silo is worth several cornfields, and requires no pesticides.

So use the earth well, the good land first, and there is plenty left over for wildlife and open space.

7. This simple formula also solves the major social and economic problems of our times, and all times.

A. It produces goods and services, including shelter for the homeless. This is supply-side economics as it should be.

B. It creates jobs and incomes to buy those goods and services. Demand-side economics.

C. It pays taxes to pay for infrastructure, pay off public debts, and thereby create domestic capital.

8. As to taxation, is that at odds with 7,A and 7,B?

Depends on how the tax is imposed -- what is the taxable event. Refer to Margil Wadley, a distinguished member of this Congregation who played a leading role in organizing this Earth Day observance. Tax land-consumption, as I have defined it -- excluding others from using. That discourages land-consumption; encourages intensive use.

9. The crisis in shelter.

Is overtaxation the cause of homelessness and unattainable homeownership for the young?

Housing pays no income tax. Your home is #1 tax shelter.

After P-13, housing in Calif. pays little prop. tax. My prop. tax is less than my insurance.

Result? High land prices, a private tax levied on new buyers. Result? Anti-growth movements, as those who paid for the old infrastructure resist sharing it with new comers who will pay less.

Conclusion? Preferential low taxation does not solve the housing problem. Sharing the Earth better is called for.

10. Does your own sweat stink?

Builders as such are not very stinky. Bigger offenders are refineries, vehicles, pesticides. Builders may indirectly increase need for those, but that depends on where they build.

Builders may also cut and fill a lot, but that too depends on where they build.

Why are builders made villains? There are bad reasons, and maybe a few good ones.

A. They are outriders of sprawl. They do not create the forces, but they are the most visible leading agents.

B. In their desperate search for land they build anywhere, e.g. on flood plains, sticking the whole community with extra social costs.

C. They play the game with city councils, and become a corrupting influence, eroding local control.

D. They play the game of annexation and utility extension, getting subsidies. On the state level they push things like CWP and Peripheral Canal.

E. They want it all: lower taxes from P-13, plus same old public services. Tack onto existing infrastructure paid by previous taxpayers.

So, let him among you who is without sin cast the first stone. Casting stones solves few problems. For Earth Day let us shift into a problem-solving mode and stay there. Keep uppermost the manual of instructions: possess the land; take what you need and leave the rest; let it go for the next generation, or recycle; render Justice; pay your share in taxes.