

Daily Devotion for April 9, 2021

¹⁹ The **acts of the flesh** are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; **hatred, discord**, jealousy, fits of **anger**, selfish ambition, **dissensions, factions** ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21

On Wednesday April 7th, I was invited to participate in a virtual roundtable discussion with Congressman Jimmy Panetta and local community leaders from the Asian American and Pacific Island community. It was interesting to hear each other's take on what is happening across our country with the rise of anti-Asian sentiments and hate crimes. This hits even closer to home when my niece was verbally abused on a subway in New York City and a Korean American friend was given a dirty look from an elderly white haired lady while eating breakfast this week on Cannery Row.

My comment to the discussion was that we need to recognize that racism is not a modern problem. It has plagued humankind for thousands of years. So, how do we overcome racism? The first step is to identify the root cause. The root cause is a heart that is sinful. Hatred is a sin. Anger is a sin. Racism is a sin! If you pull a weed without pulling the roots, it will quickly grow back again. Human effort alone cannot overcome racism and hate. In Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech, he appealed to God and the Bible several times. The only one who can change the heart is God. We must seek his strength and power to fulfill the Great Commandment of Jesus, "Love One Another."

Thought For Today: What are your thoughts on the rise of anti-Asian sentiments and hate crimes. What do you see as the root cause? What solutions can you offer?

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray for our Asian sisters and brothers for safety and protection. Pray for God's sovereign help in defeating this great national sin! Pray this week's prayer fuel. Deo Volente.