

The New York Daily News' Sickening Response to San Bernardino Shootings

"God isn't fixing this" is the insolent decree by the *New York Daily News*.

Somebody needs to proactively put the godless voices of the *New York Daily News* in their place—and that somebody just may be God himself. I'm especially talking to Rich Schapiro, the writer of that article.

The response of many after the recent terroristic, murderous rampage in San Bernardino, California, was to pray and call the nation to prayer. Whether the prayer was done in a righteous, fervent and effective manner or not is open for discussion (James 5:16), which I'll address below, but to assault compassionate people for praying—and to unabashedly insult God in the process—is repugnant.

The premise of the article is that we should be doing something instead of praying, such as enacting gun control. The arrogant position they are assuming is that God is unnecessary and that we have the ability to bring resolution to an evil world in our own human power (or, more accurately, the power of the Democrats).

The subhead of the Dec. 3 *New York Daily News* reads, "As latest batch of innocent Americans are left lying in pools of blood, cowards who could truly end gun scourge continue to hide behind meaningless platitudes."

Meaningless Platitudes?

Those last two words are in fact quite interesting, and possibly accurate.

A “platitute” is a noun, meaning “a flat, dull, or trite remark, especially one uttered as if it were fresh or profound.”

If the accusation is that remarks that include mention of prayer are trite or casually uttered, there may be some truth to that.

Is it possible God could use the *New York Daily News* to call our nation to a culture of fervent, genuine intercession? Is it possible that their disgust with the religious right’s sometimes disingenuous rhetoric regarding prayer has merit, and that those who are spiritual should first hit our knees in deep repentance? Honestly, how many prayer movements are there right now that are continually interceding, night and day, for our nation? How many pastors are on their knees hours a day? What churches have been marked as furnaces of intercession?

Mark 11:17 says, “And He taught them, and said, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’” And 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says, simply, “Pray without ceasing.”

God Isn’t Fixing This?

Mr. Schapiro, I’ll tell you why God isn’t fixing this. It’s quite simple.

At every turn in recent years, America has intentionally, strategically and aggressively disinvited God from our nation. His expulsion by those who are threatened by righteousness, morality and standards that used to define our country has had severe consequences.

You simply have to be kidding me if you think God is expected to respond after such national haughtiness and hatred of his standards has overtaken our culture. The cry has been “God bless America,” but only on our terms.

If we want God to fix this, it could happen almost overnight—if only the people of our nation, which includes you, Mr. Schapiro, respond rightly to God—a God who yearns for you and us.

The quick, simple yet humbling and costly prescription for a God-sized fix is this: “When I shut up the heaven and there is no rain, or when I command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence on My people, if My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer of this place” (2 Chron. 7:13-15).

Read it again. Slowly.

God will shut up the heavens, allow the devourer to invade our land and send pestilence in order to shake us to our knees.

The Lord God, the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, is literally the only answer to the rampage of violence in our land.

1. Humble ourselves. We have to admit that without Jesus we are dark, evil, proud, rebellious and self-important. There must be a cry in our heart of deep apology to God for our rejection of him and his standards.
2. Pray and seek God’s face. The call is not to say a prayer or to affirm prayer. It is to pray on fire, with passion, in unrelenting fashion. How many are truly on their knees as a lifestyle, calling out to God, adoring him, enjoying him, trembling in his presence? It’s an indictment on our nation that we can have church services that are devoid of a spirit of prayer, that we can have pastors who rarely pray and that we can have blood-bought Christians who don’t even know the One they follow. Prayer in schools had to be outlawed to

eradicate it. Prayer in churches dissipated without legislation.

3. Turn from our wicked ways. How in the world can we presume God would be at the ready if we are filling our minds and spirits with filth in media? How can we allow ourselves to be entertained by things such as foul language, violence, nudity and other grievous sins that require the slaughter and murder of God? How can we embrace lust, greed, unforgiveness, pride and every other sin and think that a simple prayer would bring protection? There is a sickness in the land, and those of us in the church must look inward first. The church is to be the resolution in our nation, but it will not be an entertained church—it will be a repentant, praying one.
4. Then our sin will be forgiven and our land healed. Our sin-weakened nation is nearing collapse. It's possible to see a world without America as a part of it. It's laughable to think that gun control is the answer we are looking for. The answer is to admit our vile, nauseating sin, apologize to God and turn from that way of life forever as we discover a love of God we never knew could possibly exist.

God's Mighty Works

Many mighty works have been done by God over the years in America. The great Azusa Street Revival changed the course of history as the Spirit of God invaded the world. Great healing revivals and movements launched from this land. Much more has been recorded and even more unrecorded of the amazing things God Himself has done in this nation. Unfortunately, that sets America up for destruction.

This passage is terrifying: "Then He began to reprimand the cities where most of His mighty works were done, because they did not repent: 'Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done

in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the Day of Judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who is exalted toward heaven, will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works which have been done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the Day of Judgment than for you'" (Matt. 11:20-24).

Because God proved Himself and worked wonders in the land, they were held to a higher accountability. Eternity in Hell is the future for a people who do not repent. America, God is talking to us. He's shaking us.

We need Jesus. Rich Schapiro needs Jesus. Humility, prayer and repentance are our only hope.

If we do this right, we will begin to hear the tears behind the calls to pray when trouble comes. We will see the movie theaters close and the churches fill up with humble, surrendered people who want to do little more than pray. Trite calls to prayer will be replaced by emboldened leaders trumpeting the mandate to hit our knees. Solemn assemblies will replace political debates. Revival will come, protection will be had and our enemies will be disempowered.

I'd say that would make a nuclear-level prayer movement in our nation well worth it.

Where Is Your God?

The *New York Daily News* is boldly shouting, "Where is your God?"

This shouldn't surprise us. This is where we are. This is what we read about in Joel 2:

"Yet even now, declares the Lord, return to Me with all your

heart, and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning. Rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents from punishing. Who knows? He might turn aside and relent, and He might leave behind a blessing—a grain offering and a food offering for the Lord your God. Blow the ram's horn in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and those nursing at the breast; let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Between the temple porch and the altar, let the priests, ministers of the Lord, weep and say, 'Have pity upon Your people, and do not make Your heritage a disgrace, a mockery among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'" (v. 12-17)

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. But only He knows how long His judgment will be held at bay.

Our time is here to return to the Lord with all of our heart—with fasting, with weeping and with mourning. It's time for a solemn assembly. No excuses. We all must show up and pray.

America, it's time to rend our hearts and let this great nation see just where our God is.

He's endeavoring to move in power among His people, and He's ready to rescue this great land. {eoa}

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