

AGAINST HB2576

In today's (2-12-12) devotional reading from My Utmost for His Highest (Oswald Chambers, c.1935), the British author references Moses and Exodus 20:19: "*And they said to Moses, Speak thou with us and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*" Chambers then writes, "We like to listen to personal testimonies, but we do not desire that God Himself should speak to us...If it is only the servant's voice we hear, we feel it is not imperative, we can say, 'Well, that is simply your own idea, though I don't deny it is probably God's truth.' "

As a minister and servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I can share my testimony OR, better, I can refer to God's words in Scripture. When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, he dealt with issues of human relationships. In that story "neighbor" can be understood as a person nearby and/or a person in need. And, when questioned about the story, an expert in the law clearly identified the neighbor as the one who showed mercy to the needy man. Jesus told this legally trained expert to go and do likewise—i.e. to show mercy IN SPITE OF SOCIAL AND LEGAL RESTRICTIONS TO THE CONTRARY.

I understand that same imperative—"go and do likewise" to be applicable today just as it was 2000 years ago, in Kansas just as it was in Israel. I believe it morally wrong to prosecute those who in good faith provide help/mercy to persons in need while not knowing the legal ramifications of their life situations.

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House Fed & State Affairs

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