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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

God Uses Evildoers ~ August 28, 2015

God is more than masterful to use one evildoer to punish another.

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There are potentially 36 million people who face ruined lives because the Ashley Madison website— *which exists to facilitate husbands and wives to cheat on their spouses*— was hacked. Personal information about “the 31 million men competing to attract [the] 5.5 million women in the database” was made public on the web. I already wrote about this ([Website Hack Vs. The Bible](#)), but the sprawling impact of this event continues to fester.

Now it comes to light that as some 31 million men were seeking to hook up with only 5.5 million women, that almost all those women were fake accounts—that only 0.0073% of AM’s users were real women. (Hmm... I think I remember the Bible teaching that purposeful sinning is like getting in bed with the Devil, the Master of Deceit and Lies. See John 8:44.)

While many of the authors posting articles about this situation strongly state that they have no sympathy for the cheaters, they feel compelled to remind us that these 31 million men and 263 thousand women were victims of a fraudulent company and of cyber criminals.

- How unfair that cheaters were cheated with fake accounts created by the people they trusted to help them cheat!
- How wrong for thieves to steal and post personal data that now threatens millions of cheaters with a potential loss of reputation, marriage, career or money.

Yes, the cheaters were also victims. But it’s a situation that did not evolve by accident.

In his Large Catechism, Dr. Luther taught the 7th Commandment (“you shall not steal”) by saying that when God looks down from heaven, he sees one merchant stealing from another, merchants stealing from their customers, and customers stealing from the merchants. Each one, merchant and customer, tries to get ahead at the loss of another, but it all evens out so that sin does not pay. Luther explains:

If you steal, you can depend upon the fact that the value you stole will be stolen from you by a different thief. And if you in violence rob another, you will end up having to submit to a violent man who will deal with you in the same violent fashion. For God is the master of this art... [in that he] punishes one thief by means of another (my transliteration).

This is incredible insight: For God is the master of this art... [in that he] punishes one thief by means of another! And remember who actually authored the scriptures: the God of Truth and Justice who says, “I cannot be mocked; a man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7).

God is such “the master of this art” that he obviously uses it beyond the 7th commandment, as demonstrated by the AM website hack. Is not God using the sin of the stealing hackers to punish the sins of the cheating account holders?

But God who uses one evildoer to punish another evildoer isn't interested in boasting about his wise methods of justice. No by this art, he's calling sinners to repentance and saving faith. For when a sinner has trapped himself in his sin, and he hears that God is the master who uses evildoers to punish each other, the sinner is led to cry out to his Master: “Lord, have mercy on me, sinner!”

Mercy is God's pity for those who don't deserve it. Mercy is the foundation for the gifts of forgiveness and new life that God gives freely to all who know and confess that they deserve his just anger and wrath. Mercy is what moved Jesus to sacrifice himself at the cross to pay for our sins. Yes, God sent his Son to the cross to bring mercy to those who realize they don't deserve it, even if that realization comes from the fact that God used evil hackers to expose their evil involvement with an evil website. For the Master of using one evildoer to punish another is also the God who provides mercy through his son, Jesus, who taught this parable...

¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:10-14) ✝

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

[Ashley Madison Hack Ruined My Life](#) @ CNN.com

[Almost None of the Women in the Ashley Madison Database Ever Used the Site](#) @ Gizmodo.com

[A Lot Of People Are Forgetting One Important Thing about the Ashley Madison Hack](#) @ BusinessInsider.com

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

