

Essay from the bold pastor #51 - All Quiet on the Wall Street -

On September 17th, the protest against the gap society between the rich and the poor, aka “Occupy Wall Street” movement, gathered around 1,000 people celebrating its 1st anniversary. Over 100 demonstrators were arrested by noon. As we all know, their activities scattered and vanished within a few months of its inception, only leaving behind a lot of trash on streets. Ultimately, the protests failed to inflict any impact on Wall Street and thus World Economy.

The movement originated with a Canadian writer who was intrigued by “Arab Spring Protests” which started last year in Tunisia and spread to the Middle East. The writer recruited demonstrators through SNS, which resulted in the establishment of diverse group of people, including the Liberals, Independents, anarchists, socialists, conservatives, religious groups, and environmental activists. As a result, they turned into a disorderly crowd with no uniformity in its demands though their original objective was to protest against governmental policies on finance as well as the riches.

On the other hand, the group astonished the nation with its highly organized structure. They discuss activities and make decisions through general assembly, and their roles are clearly divided. Some are facilitators, medical staffs, caterers, and even hairstylists. This organizational structure is extremely similar to the one seen in the protest group gathered in 1999 under the slogan of anti-globalism. This group consisting of 50,000 demonstrators was highly organized and even had on site its own ER team and a group of lawyers that would represent them in case of getting arrested. The chaos caused by this massive number of protesters inhibited WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle from coming to agreement on new round. However, this too, failed to achieve its objective and made no difference on the society. On the contrary, the situation worsened in 2000 due to bubble economy. It is ironic that economic standstill and protests coexist in today’s society.

There is a story in bible depicting Apostle Paul involved in a chaos caused by struggle for better economy in Ephesus, ancient Greek city famous for having one of the “7 Wonders of the Ancient World”.

“The assembly was in confusion: Some were shouting one thing, some another. Most of the people did not even know why they were there.”

Acts 19:32

Of all ages and cultures, people cry out for their own gain.
But Paul continues as follows:

“I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”

Acts 20:21

Now is the time to cry out to Jesus, the Messiah, instead of just following a crowd or a buzzword blindly. You will see a change that impacts the gain.

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