

Mr. Brian Lamb
CEO, C-SPAN
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July 5, 1994

nice

Dear Mr. Lamb,

I am an almost constant viewer of C-SPAN, and I especially like your Monday and Friday discussion groups at 5 A.M.

On Friday, June 24, one of your callers said something so outrageous that I became very angry. I hope you will let me sound off on this subject.

The caller said something like this: If you put the Bible on a CD-ROM and look up "health care", you won't find it. He said this with something of a sneer in his voice. In other words, this caller (from the religious right) believes that there is no justification for helping people with no health care.

I didn't put the Bible on a CD-ROM, but I did find a reference to health care, in the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 25, beginning with verse 31. These are the words of Jesus, describing the Last Judgement: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, ... all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

"And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me; I WAS SICK and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ... Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink. I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

"Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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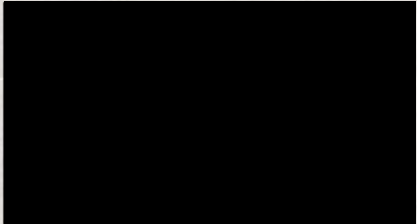
I believe that this is all the Biblical justification that is necessary to support the concept of universal health care-- and it must be universal, giving complete coverage to 100% of the people, not 90% or 95% ! "I was sick and you visited Me" obviously refers to a health care plan! The religious right pretends to be Christian, but then they say "you are sick and we will NOT visit you, or let you have any of the benefits of a doctor or a hospital." "You needed medicine, and we made sure that you didn't get it." "You needed an operation, and we prevented you from getting it." These people may call themselves the Christian religious right, but they are not Christians.

Thank you for letting me express my thoughts. I hope this letter gets through to you, but if not, I understand that you are a big organization and you get a lot of mail. I wanted to call this in on your program , but I didn't move fast enough.

(Incidentally, I would have preferred that the parable put the righteous sheep on the left, and the goats on the right, but this is a mere detail.)

Please keep up the good work, giving equal time to both sides.

Sincerely,



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