



The political cartoon I choose is not something that would jump out at you as such. I like that it is not obvious, it makes you think, I feel that it is perfect for this because unlike so many others that are self-explanatory, this picture can speak to a vast audience. I like that this picture gives each of us a voice and the opportunity to interpret it at our own disposal.

If we are speaking of Politics one would wonder without a written article or debate, what it might mean and who it was intended for. My first thought is that the image is intended for a specific religious group like the LDS Church, their young men who serve missions or older men that serve in callings both out on the lords errand acting in his behalf to bring others to the fold.

It leaves a great amount of room for personal interpretation. It not only speaks for religions and their politics but even possibly judicial politics and leaves room for controversy. The image itself I feel has a rich history and can speak to many audiences, I feel that it is very persuasive to certain groups and plays a very large part in modern life today, as stated above LDS young men set aside their lives for two years to serve a mission for the church, also Jehovah's Witnesses set out, going door to door on a search to recruit or convert members of their faith. That is my very first instinct when I look at this image. Personally it spoke to me so there is a relationship between the picture and the words it is meant to say. I personally felt that I had a higher purpose to fulfill, and work that I needed to do.

I feel that the way the author went about sending his message was interesting because he took his idea of a Christ and made him a single dominate focus in the image using clean and fresh lines he was able to capture the face of someone most would recognize, I feel he did this for a reason. Possibly the higher power within the lines of the frame is where our mind should always be, or that no matter what political circle we are in there is always someone in higher

power. Referring to the lines the artist used are very structured, although it seemed that Christ was the dominate figure in the photo the more subdued image of his use of “Man” is drawn more boldly. I feel this represents that although the audience is intended to view Christ as the ultimate figure he is not tangible. He is not a hard figure here on earth; simply what how choose to view him, “Man” on the other hand is very tangible, breakable. As you can see in the face of the man in the image, he seems worn, tired, stressed, or even discouraged. These are all feelings that we as humans feel and when you view a piece of art like this I would think you would feel the difference between a higher power in a spiritual sense and human in the flesh, two different worlds depending on who it is aimed for can be very moved by.

It is a large black and white and gray photo that looks to be drawn in pencil. Christ’s hands are outstretched with a man in a suit and books in his hands that looks as though he would be on his way to work. Or possibly in search of what the lord is leading him to. There is no artist signature on it and I have attempted to locate any real information about this piece, but have been unsuccessful.

There are many ways that I have thought about this piece. I have looked at it from a religious standpoint as that is where it first came into my life. I have my own personal opinion about the power Christ, and the influences he has. I work very hard knowing that in the grand scheme of things the work that I am doing is for a higher purpose. I truly do feel that if I am valiant in my efforts to serve the lord and follow the law of the land that I will be blessed.

This is my personal opinion and some of it gained from the actual message of the image however personal it may be it does not take away from the technical aspects of the Image. Also I would like to state that my personal opinion and has no bearing on the turn of others opinions regarding

this piece. I think in life all should have the right to live according to their own personal standards as long as they follow the law of the land.

This being said it leaves a great amount of room for those who view the church and its businesses in a place where their own opinion comes into play. This to me is religious politics. The more that I look at it, the LDS Church, its members, the factors of money, its vast wealth and its requirements from its members to pay tithes and fast offering, the incredible amount of money they spend on the building of the many projects and operations they have going on around the world, and the amount of property throughout the world they own, I start to wonder if the image means less of religion and more of business because the man is drawn so dark in the image. What I originally thought might be personally opposed to others. I assumed that the picture is a missionary in the hands of the Lord walking along doing his work and in the process bringing members into the church through conversion. I myself served a mission and there are many factors that come into play however it is possible that this image could mean so much more than just one message if shown to a different audience.

The fact that all the work we do in this country is for a higher power, a larger being, or organization than us. It brings me comfort to feel that I am not just an ant on this planet working towards something that is benign and insignificant. Whether you are LDS or a Buddhist I think that there is a majority of people that feel this same way. This picture speaks to a lot of people that we are walking through life on this planet, knowing that even though we do not have proof or evidence that there is life on other planets that we are aware of, we are still working towards something much more significant than us ourselves. If it is the CEO of your firm or God whether it is true or not does not matter and I do not feel that this picture intends to tell you that without

doubt there is a higher religious power. I feel that the bottom line the artist may have been getting at is that we are all fighting through this life for some sort of power.

This image can be seen politically in the eyes of someone that is not religious. I have heard many times from people that the reason the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is so wealthy is because their main goal is to bring members in and almost coheres them into the idea that they will only receive blessings if they pay their ten% tithing and fast offerings. So one can ask them self's are we really joining this church based on faith that we will receive blessings in this life, when the whole organization is focused on its own financial gain? I don't see much of this stated in the photo but the dominance of Christ, his structure, the calmness in his face that speaks "I'll catch you if you fall" the sheer intent of his hands being the ground for which we walk can speak many things.

I think that it is blatant that this picture says that we are working for him as he is the higher power, our main source and need of focus; I think that this has become a bigger question among concerned citizens as our economy has declined.

Our economy is declining so rapidly yet the LDS church is able to continue to build Temples, churches, provide food and welfare to those of their choice and many other things. I have also heard that some find it odd that as Salt Lake City for example continues to make improvements like the new remodel downtown "City Center", people wonder if we are actually working for the government or the overtaking of "Christ" and his profound ambiance of the LDS church downtown. Which government are we working for? There are so many people that believe that because the Church owns so much property and that requires many people to man it, work for the companies that reside on the property they feel that they are just working toward the

financial gain of the Church and not for the government. One might say we in the palm of his hands as his puppets.

The state of Utah is not the only place that opinions like this take place. I have heard many different opinions regarding the ways the church receives its funding, and the power of the idea they are working for Christ and the progression of his church, and not for the building up of the economy and the benefit of US citizens. In this picture do we see man gaining a profit that is legitimate and financially realistic for the benefit and future of our country? Or are people simply working to benefit a different higher power.

It is obvious to me that in this image Christ being so profoundly large it is where our focus should be. Our eyes are not immediately directed to man and his efforts, but the beauty and effort put into the idealism of Christ. Why must we be so small and understated in our own world and that our main focal point should be that of a higher power. Is it equal or Idealism? Is it faith and humbleness or our giving up of power? I am not one to say that either opinion is right, all I know is what it is I feel in my heart and believe. The beauty of our country is that we have the freedom to choose. That is why we migrated here, that is why people still migrate here. I myself feel that this picture represents everything that I work for. I like the idea that as I go about my life I am working through the hands of my Savior.

I feel that it is important to have your own personal opinion regarding church and state. The fact remains that God became a position of higher power in this country since its foundation. In the early 1800's God became a main place of focus of holding together the state of the union during the Civil War. The mint of our coins was officially put in place with the engraving "In God We Trust" Our entire financial system was based on a God. Our founding fathers wrote the

constitution with god as a focal point. 1776 our founding fathers built our country after we separated from England so that we could have freedom. Our Nations song contained words of god, now we have settled to the opposite end of the spectrum. For years we were able to use God in our Pledge of Allegiance, in court swearing to tell the truth so help us God??? “In God We Trust” What does that mean? What does it mean now we have pushed so far for freedom to completely dismantle what our founding fathers built for us?

Perhaps In our current situation there is so much teaching about weather things are true or not and there is less focus on the true building of the foundation of our country. There is freedom but how far have we as Man, Pushed it? Should it be a large picture of man with a picture of Christ in our hands if we choose? Up to debate? His drawing is profound and moving. I can almost feel the mood the artist was in when he made it. There are many ways to interpret it and that is because we have the beauty of freedom. Just because Christ is the main focal point in this picture does not mean that those who don't believe in Christ should not have the right to believe in a higher power or purpose. I feel that is why he drew man so dark.

The frame of the Image is a clean thin line, a box where a specific minority can sit. Perhaps the artist was speaking to just that minority or to the vast majority of us who all have one of our own telling, us that we are dominate although we may always have someone to answer to. I feel that his subtitles demanded the most attention. I feel that the artist did not need to spell it out for you. Although Christ seems to undermine man in the photo if you really think rhetorically about what the author meant while drawing man you will see that the focus really can be on us depending on how we view ourselves.

As I look at this picture I see that the eyes of Christ even it being a sketch, are kind and his face is drawn that of a kind and loving man. Can he represent the Government? The man in this picture is in a suit, he has books in his hands and his face seems determined. Some may say that his face seems angry or frustrated with the path that he is on. There is incredible detail in the picture of Christ, right down to the folds in his robe; however the man seems small and insignificant but bold and drawn dark. The detail in Christ says to me that the higher power presented is someone special and someone that is bigger than any of us. The man seems to be small in such a big environment.

As I stated to begin with this picture is not something that would immediately jump out at you as something political but I feel that it can. There are so many ways that you can view this image, literally and ethically also politically, and questionable. I am very consumed with the idea that it can mean multiple things but mostly taken by the power the artist had in how he used his techniques to make us think and feel these things. With just the stroke of his hand and the pressure of his pencil "Man" became something more than what you see at first. He had the power to send a message in many ways with the same image and it's not always what your eyes first see.

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