



TRUTH APPLICATIONS

Articles

“Here Comes Everybody”

David Anguish

In 2013 David Mills described an Easter assembly at a Catholic church in New York City. The gathering of a diverse group of people reminded him how Richard John Neuhaus, the late editor of *First Things* who had also served that parish for many years, used to describe the church with the words, “here comes everybody.”

Beside us ... was an older man in tie and leather bomber jacket, in front was a young woman in a camel-hair coat, sitting next to a homeless man who'd stacked two bags with his possessions against the wall, and in front of them were a guy and a girl, both in jeans and t-shirts. Behind was a Latino family, their responses heavily accented ... (David Mills, “While We’re At It,” *First Things*, June-July 2013, 67).

I clipped Mill’s musings, first, because I was reminded of how similar things are across our land. The days when New York City can be uniquely singled out as a “melting pot” are long gone. It is easy to envision a gathering like the one Mills describes in every one of our country’s cities and in many smaller towns as well.

I clipped his words, second, because they reminded me of how Jesus went about his work. People of different ethnicities gravitated to him, and he welcomed them all. Although his mighty works certainly created wonder, his practice of welcoming all was also part of the reason people marveled at what he was doing (see Luke 9.43; 11.38; John 4.27). He welcomed cultural ne’er-do-wells such as the blind, lame, lepers, deaf, grieving, and poor (Luke 7.18–23); a Syrophenician woman (Mark 7.24–30); and some Greeks (John 12.20–22). He cast a hated Samaritan in the role of hero in his most famous parable (Luke 10.30–37). We can easily imagine someone watching all this exclaiming, with delight, “He welcomes *everybody!*”

He did, and as his body, we are called to make sure the crowds of our day know that he still does.

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