



"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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SOME QUOTES I'VE BEEN READING....

Aristotle wrote:

"Anybody can become angry, that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way, that is not within everybody's power; that is not easy."...

Will Rogers:

"A fool and his money is soon elected."

Ben Franklin:

"Here comes the orator - with his flood of words and his drop of reason"

G. Campbell Morgan:

"The reason why men do not look to the Church today is that She has destroyed Her own influence by compromise."

Thomas Jefferson said (1820), *"Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so – they have with others – the same poison for party, for power, and the privileges of their corps....and the more power the more dangerous as they are in office for life and not responsible – as the other functionaries are to the elective central."*

Moses L. Lard (1818 – 1880)

"He is a poor observer of man and things who does not see slowly growing up among us a class of men who can no longer be satisfied with the ancient gospel and the ancient order of things. These men must have changes; and silently they are preparing the mind of the brotherhood to receive changes. Be not deceived, brethren, the Devil is not sleeping. If you refuse to see the danger till ruin is upon you, then it will be too late."

A.W. Tozer, GEMS FROM TOZER, pgs. 47-48

"A new Decalogue has been adopted by the neo-Christians of our day, the first word for which reads, 'Thou shalt not disagree;' and a new set of Beatitudes too, which begins, 'Blessed are they that tolerate everything, for they shall not be made accountable for anything.' It is

now the accepted thing to talk over religious differences in public with the understanding that no one will try to convert another or point out errors in his belief".

"Imagine Moses agreeing to take part in a panel discussion with Israel over the golden calf; or Elijah engaging in a gentlemanly dialogue with the prophets of Baal. Or try to picture our Lord, Jesus Christ seeking a meeting of the minds with the Pharisees to iron out differences. The blessings of God are promised to the peacemaker, but the religious negotiator had better watch his step. Darkness and light can never be brought together by talk. Some things are not negotiable."

Booker T. Washington, a black man, wrote a century ago (1911):

"There is [a] class of colored people who make a business of keeping the troubles, the wrongs, and the hardships of the Negro race before the public. Having learned that they are able to make a living out of their troubles, they have grown into the settled habit of advertising their wrongs – partly because they want sympathy, and partly because it pays. Some of these people do not want the Negro to lose his grievances, because they do not want to lose their jobs..."

There is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don't want the patient to get well, because as long as the disease holds out they have not only an easy means of making a living, but also an easy medium through which to make themselves prominent before the public."

Does this make you think of a few so-called reverends?

Duncan Heaster, THE DEATH OF CHRIST, Carelinks Ministries:

"Nicodemus bought 300 pounds of spices, far greater than the amount used at the most lavish royal burials of the time. The cost of this would have been colossal; equivalent to tens of thousands of dollars. And he did this on the spur of the moment; he bought it in the three hours between the Lord's death (3 p.m.) and sunset (6 p.m.). He didn't count the cost, thinking that OK, he'd given up his place in the society and economy, and would now have to live frugally on what he had for the rest of his days. No. Like the widow, he gave what he had, his capital, which many would have more 'prudently' kept for the rainy days ahead."

The Roman "litra" or pound was about 12 ounces, so 100 pounds (**John 19:39**) would have been about 75 imperial pounds. Such a weight would fill a considerable space in the tomb, forming a mound, which would smother the corpse. Such was their love. It was common for kings to have such large amounts of spices (e.g. **Jeremiah 34:5**).

Those men were showing their belief that Jesus truly was Lord and King for them. To believe Jesus is Lord and King is not something which we can painlessly or cheaply believe. It demands our all. And there is no reason to think that Joseph 'got away with it'. The Acts of Pilate 12 reports that the Jews became so hostile when they heard that Joseph had asked for Jesus' body that they imprisoned him. It should be noted that Joseph didn't do what he did for hope of a future reward.

The cross itself was enough to motivate him to give all purely for love of the Lord Jesus; not for any future hope. It could be that the reference to how he "waited for the Kingdom of God" when he begged for the body (**Mark 15:43**) suggests that he had lost hope for the future Kingdom at that time, he had earlier waited for it, but now he simply lived life for love of Jesus. And this should be our attitude if we are for some reason denied the Kingdom ahead; that, simply, we love Jesus, and would give our lives for Him all the same, Kingdom or no Kingdom.

There is significant extra-Biblical information about Nicodemus. Josephus mentions him as a distinguished man in Wars of the Jews II, 20 and IV, 3.9. He is mentioned in the Talmud [Gittin 56a] as Nakdimon ben Gurion, one of the three richest nobles in Jerusalem. The Talmud also mentions a story about his daughter [Ketuboth 66a]. It relates that one day when Rabbi Johanan ben Zakkai was riding out of Jerusalem, he spoke to a poor young beggar woman, and discovered that she was Nicodemus' daughter. He recalled that her father had lost his fortune, and had not practiced deeds of charity.

This rather confirms our picture of Nicodemus. He did indeed lose his fortune, and his previous mean spiritedness was radically transformed by his experience of the outgiven life and love of Jesus. In the light of that, he gave away all. And the powerful impact of the cross of Christ can likewise banish all carefully calculated meanness from our hearts too, and concretely result in real generosity."

Thomas Edison:

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

CHRISTIAN NEWS:

Husband/Wife Father/Mother on the Ropes:

"The legalization of homosexuality is already beginning to destroy the biblical concept of father and mother, husband and wife. The new marriage licenses in California replace "husband and wife" with 'Party A and Party B'.

In Scotland, teachers in some major cities have banned Father's Day cards this year so as not to offend students who live with single mothers and lesbians.

The London Telegraph reports, 'The politically correct policy was quietly adopted at schools 'in the interests of sensitivity' over the growing number of lone-parent and same-sex households' (Father's Day Cards Banned,' June 20, 2008).

Last year Scotland's National Health Service approved a policy for hospital workers mis-titled, 'Fair For All'.

In fact, the policy is 'fair' for no one, because it destroys the right of free speech and forbids the use of historical and biblical terms such as 'mother' and 'father' (some patients might have two mothers or two fathers) and 'husband' and 'wife', labeling this 'homophobic language'. Such terms must be replaced with 'partner' or 'they/them' ('There is only one acceptable way to talk about homosexuality – **SILENCE!**")

Charles Spurgeon stated:

"A magazine which is not outspoken and is destitute of principle is a literary nuisance."

"Shadows are proof that there is light."

Jesus said, "Judge not that ye be not judged..."

"House speaker Nancy Pelosi called President Bush a "total failure." Her colleague in the Senate, Harry Reid, echoed her statement with his, 'Who would be afraid of [President Bush]? He's got a 29% approval rating.' Most Americans agree and his approval rating has been below 30% quite regularly. However, Pelosi, Reid and friends in Democratic-controlled Congress went recently to an approval rating of 9%; the first time in recorded history Congress has gotten down to single digits."

The rest of the verse says, "...with what judgement ye judge you will be judged."