



County Corrections Gospel Mission

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Dear Warden:

"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is holy Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His name; they called upon the LORD, and He answered them " -Ps 99:5,6

Just yesterday I participated in the funeral of a 17-year-old boy who was discovered hanging in a city police lockup. Nearly 1,000 youth wept over his young face. They laid their gold rings, necklaces and medallions upon his hands. They seemed to be a generation without LEADERSHIP, no less, perhaps, even a Dad!

God hasn't finished with us yet. There's still time. Time to decide how much we need to HEAR FROM GOD and how much we need to SPEAK FOR HIM. Are WE **AMONG THEM THAT CALL UPON HIS NAME?**

God is always looking for someone to stand "in the gap" on behalf of the people. Ezekiel 22:30,31 says it this way: "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I FOUND NONE. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them, I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath; THEIR OWN WAY have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD." Jeremiah the Prophet says, "Thus saith the LORD, STAND YE IN THE WAYS, AND SEE, AND ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, WHERE IS THE GOOD WAY, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet, But they said, We will not hearken. HEAR, O earth: behold I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it." (Jer 6:16,17,19)

These Scriptures reveal several vital issues that need to concern each of us. **FIRST**, God has chosen in His sovereign will to use LEADERSHIP that honors and fears Him (e.g., Samuel, Moses, Aaron, "someone to stand in the gap", Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Watchmen, the Trumpeter, etc.). **TWO**, God requires that each LEADER first "call upon the Lord". **THIRD**, God calls upon the people through that obedient LEADER (note the key thought noted in Psalm 99:6: " **AMONG THEM** that call upon His name").

Warden
January 28, 1992
Page 2

AMONG THEM seems to be the pivotal concept. We live in a generation that too often exalts leadership that has clearly offended the moral and spiritual laws of God. National heroes too often have mocked the very qualities of leadership required by God. The question becomes WHO ON EARTH SPEAKS FOR GOD? Do I? Do you?

May God help us to be among them that call upon His name. Listen for this quality as men and women speak. It qualifies the LEADER as nothing else will.

Wanting to be among them

Jack Crans
Director

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