County Corrections Gospel Mission

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Dear Warden:

> "O my people, **remember** now what Balak, King of Moab, devised (consulted), and what Balaam, the son of Beor, answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal, **that ye may know the righteousness of the Lord.** He hath shown thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."
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> - Micah 6:5,8

In the Bible account mentioned above, the nation of Israel is soon to face the terrible threat of Assyrian invaders. The prophet Micah is chosen of God to sober their thinking and to cause in the hearts of Israel an ear to God. Simply put, rough times can prepare our lives for God's greatest opportunities for reaching our often hurried and troubled souls.

Perhaps more easily understood than Micah's words are those spoken by the Apostle Peter in I Peter 4:7: **"But the end of all things is at hand; be ye, therefore, soberminded, and watch unto prayer"** It's wise to be a leader who consults with God's Word. Truly the most effective and needful authority is the individual who realizes (1) the urgency of the moment; (2) the clearmindedness to understand the issues; and (3) the prayerful dependency upon God to administrate properly.

King Balak consulted with the Prophet Balaam, but each was an enemy of God. Their failure is what God said to "remember". It was a clear case of two men conspiring to violate the unchanging and uncompromising counsels of God Almighty. Careful reading of their history reveals the moral and spiritual bankruptcy of **power without God**. God wants us to **to know His righteousness**! Righteousness, simply defined, is "the character of God as it reveals all that He both demands and approves" Two questions will help us understand the "righteousness of the Lord". (1) What does God demand of me? (2) What meets God's approval?" If we could carefully break it down again, we would find ourselves in a discussion of Justice and Mercy. Do we measure up to His standards? Careful examination reveals that **all** men are lawbreakers in the eyes of God. All men need His mercy!

While God wants so much to reveal His character to us, He also chooses to use leadership that can communicate His needful role in our lives "Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with thy God."

We may not like it, but roles of authority always demand more of us than we can deliver. It is for this reason that we recognize a sense of great dependence upon God Consulting with men who fear no God is a deadly game Corrections, just like the Church, needs leadership which understands the times, the issues and the need for prayer. It should be clearly understood by all: **God is righteous...hence, His demands, His approval mean everything** to our present counsels Before signing on the bottom line, consult with God!

A friend,

Jack Crans
Director

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