

- 7- Execution of this honor code principle inspires a number of patriotic expressions within the national culture, i.e., parades, memorial day commemorations, military holidays, exultation of marriage and family life, chivalry and respect for women, gratitude for those serving in the military or the police, appreciation for those who invest in free enterprise, and a sense of pride in one's country, its system of law and order, and the environment of freedom it produces.
- 8- Since those who hold such positions are human, they will make mistakes, be susceptible to corruption, miscarry justice, abuse their positions, exploit their power, be disloyal to those whom they serve and be unfair to those they supervise.
- 9- When people in such positions of authority and influence perform acts of evil which effect you directly or indirectly, you are not permitted to pay back evil for evil; you are commanded to respect what is honorable in the sight of all mankind.
- 10- I have not included pastors in this list of positions to receive respect. The position deserves your respect but of all those mentioned thus far, its practitioners are the ones most responsible for the demise of the rest. Their poor scholarship at best, and no scholarship at worst has led this client nation to the brink of self-destruction.
- 11- The United States today remind us of degenerate Judah in the days of Jeremiah. Idolatry had captured the souls of the people and the five cycles of discipline had begun their march through the land. Jeremiah places the origin of the blame on the pastors whom he refers to as shepherds and prophets.
- 12- Jeremiah witnessed the advance of evil in the minds of men and the gross miscarriage of justice which resulted from their actions. Jeremiah 12 and 23 are classic passages which place the genesis of national discipline squarely on the shoulders of the clergy. **Jeremiah 12:**

v 5 = "If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?"

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If you can't handle the petty problems of life then how do you expect to endure the catastrophes one encounters during national discipline?

- v 6 = "For even your brothers and the household of your father, even they have dealt treacherously with you, even they have cried aloud after you. Do not believe them, although they may say nice things to you."

Truth either convicts or enrages the soul of the reversionist. Brother will rise up against brother in the time of national discipline as expediency takes precedence over bloodlines.

- v 7 = "I have forsaken My house, I have abandoned My inheritance; I have given the beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies."

National apostasy causes Jesus Christ to allow the Chaldean Army to overrun His client nation.

- v 8 = "My inheritance has become to Me like a lion in the forest; she has roared against Me; therefore I have come to hate her."

Anthropopathism indicating divine policy against reversionism in a client nation.

- v 9 = "Is My inheritance like a speckled bird of prey to Me? Are the birds of prey against her on every side? Go, gather all the beasts of the field, bring them to devour!"

Speckled birds are attacked by birds of prey because they look different. The Chaldeans are characterized as the birds of prey and the beasts of the field.

- v 10 = "Many shepherds have ruined My vineyard, they have trampled down My field; they have made My pleasant field a desolate wilderness."

Shepherds represent the priesthood of Israel who through error and apostasy have destroyed the souls of the people. Because of this the nation is corrupt. Jeremiah takes up the subject again in **Jeremiah 23:**

- v 1 - "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the Lord.

- v 2 = Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the Lord.

Jesus Christ indicts the national clergy for its failure to properly communicate doctrine to the people as they were commissioned to do. A special brand of discipline is reserved by our Lord for pastors who knowingly mislead and corrupt His flock. Some of the results are noted in verse:

- v 10 = For the land is full of adulterers; for the land mourns because of the curse. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course also is evil and their might is not right.

Adultery here has two meanings: (1) spiritual referring to idolatry and (2) physical referring to destruction of divine institutions 2 and 3. This only occurs when there is a loss of thought--thought the priesthood was assigned to communicate and didn't. The curse on the land is drought and thus refers to the third cycle of discipline: economic depression. The evil course is the degeneracy which develops in the national Zeitgeist because of no thought. Another reflection of this inability to think is a disorganized and poorly trained military.

- v 11 = "For both prophet and priest are polluted; **even in My house** I have found their wickedness," declares the Lord.
- v 12 = "Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them, they will be driven away into the gloom and fall down in it; for I shall bring calamity upon them, the year of their punishment," declares the Lord.

In verse 9, Jeremiah likens himself to "a drunken man." The corruption of the priesthood left him mentally staggered. The pompous manner in which they taught the lie as truth left his "heart broken" and made his "bones tremble." He does not attack the apostate priests personally but does point out the dreadful consequences of their theology beginning in verse 10, as noted.

The Lord provides us with a precise critique of their ministries and then announces their deserved punishment in verses 11-12.

- v 13 = "Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria I saw an offensive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray."

Samaria refers to the Northern Kingdom. The Lord is reminding the priests of Judah of what happened to the priests of the Northern Kingdom when they promoted the idolatrous worship of Baal. That the priests of Judah are even worse than they is indicated by our Lord's comments in verse:

- v 14 = "Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; and they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, and her inhabitants like Gomorrah."

The evil of the prophets of Judah is greater than those of the Northern Kingdom. The prophets of the Northern Kingdom simply joined in with the Baal cult in open and obvious idolatry. Those of Judah used the name of God to promote their form of idolatry which included several forms of evil. The one mentioned specifically here is abnormal sexual immorality which is taught as normal function and not as sin. Consequently, the prophets were teaching the people to sin rather than imploring them against it. Thus our Lord compares the priesthood to the citizens of Sodom and the people to the inhabitants of Gomorrah. Those responsible for this must pay.

- v 15 = "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood and make them drink poisonous water, for from the prophets of Jerusalem pollution has gone forth into all the land.'"

The job of the priest is to lead the people in a continuing process of spiritual growth. Instead these priests led the people of Judah into the whirlpool of Charybdis resulting in national degeneracy of the vilest form. The wormwood and poisoned water indicate that the punishment from the Lord will be intense and bitter tasting.

- 13- Mainline Protestant pastors and ministers of our client nation have fallen into this same trap. I received a telephone call the other day from a man new to St. Louis and looking for a church. He had just tried out a Methodist church in St. Louis County. On his first visit the associate pastor informed him that Jesus Christ and Mark were homosexual lovers. He based this blasphemous slander on an account given in Mark 14:51-52. The scene is the Garden of Gethsemane at the point of our Lord's arrest. All Jesus's disciples had taken this as their opportunity to find business elsewhere. However, there was one other person trailing behind who was almost apprehended before he could escape. **Mark 14:**

v 51 = And a certain young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him.

v 52 = But he left the linen sheet behind, and escaped naked.

- 1- It is generally assumed that this young man was Mark, the writer of the Gospel of Mark.
- 2- It is further accepted that the home in which the Last Supper was observed was that of Mark and his mother Mary.
- 3- Mark's background can be pieced together from several passages. We know from Acts 12:12 that his full name is John Mark.
- 4- John (>IWA'NNnS) is a Hebrew name while Mark (MA'RKOS) is Roman. This tells us that he is not only Jewish but also a Roman citizen.
- 5- His father had apparently prospered in the Roman culture and ~~apparently~~ had died. This led his mother Mary to return to Jerusalem and buy a home.
- 6- Her spacious home with its large upper guest room is described by our Lord in Mark 14:14-15 and indicates that Mark and his mother are wealthy.
- 7- Although Mark is a young man, probably in his early twenties, he has been educated and raised as a Jew in the Roman culture.
- 8- As a Roman citizen, Mark would have been accustomed to wearing the "toga virilis," a white garment customarily worn by young men.

- 9- The wealthy were also accustomed to wearing garments out of fine linen as is the case in this passage.
- 10- The garment found here is the **SINDW'N**, a fine linen night wrap. As a citizen of Rome Mark was not only familiar with linen garments, his wealth permitted him to own a number of garments made from the most expensive cloth of the ancient world.
- 11- Although the Last Supper was held in his home, not being a disciple, he was not a participant.
- 12- Scripture does not give precise details of what happened, but I believe we can reconstruct what went on that evening which resulted in the events of Mark 14:51-52.
- 1- After seeing the dinner party off following the meal, Mark apparently went straight to bed, putting on his customary linen night wrap.
 - 2- Later his servant girl, Rhoda, mentioned in Acts 12:13, probably awakened him after learning that a search party had been organized by the High Priest to apprehend Jesus.
 - 3- Mark in haste to alert the Lord of the danger, headed out toward Gethsemane without dressing.
 - 4- On his arrival he saw the Roman posse was already there and quietly stayed in the background to see what transpired.
 - 5- After the arrest was made he observed the 11 remaining disciples pull away from Jesus and flee the scene under the cover of darkness.
 - 6- Mark is said to have then followed Jesus as ~~He~~ was being led away.
 - 7- The Roman soldiers caught sight of him and attempted to apprehend him as well. In grabbing his night wrap it unfolded and although Mark escaped into the night he did so naked.

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B-9/27B