

The World's Best Finance Minister Is Gone

Last Thursday, an event happened that shocked everyone in Canada. In fact, it was felt around the world. The day began with the usual political wrangling in the House of Commons. Then in Members' Statements, many MPs arose to praise the Hindu holiday that was coming up. Interestingly though, no one mentioned Resurrection Sunday; where Our Lord Jesus Christ arose from the dead. But just before the main event in the arena commenced, commonly called Question Period; everything ground to a halt. The Sitting was suspended; then the House was adjourned for the day.

What was going on? In all my many years on Parliament Hill, I had never seen anything like this before. The Opposition MPs were streaming over to the Government Side, consoling the Conservatives. All political facades were gone; and they were relating to each other as people. Was it an international crisis? Was it a national disaster? Everyone was visibly shaken; from the greatest to the least. Even experienced newscasters were at a loss of words.

Apparently, around noon, the Honourable Jim Flaherty, the former Minister of Finance, was having a meeting with another Cabinet Minister, Kelly Leitch. Jim had a massive heart attack; and even though Leitch was a doctor, Flaherty could not be revived. The unexpected suddenness of the event hit hard all around. Flaherty had been in politics for twenty years, at both provincial and federal levels.

Jim Flaherty's last portfolio was as the Minister of Finance. He held that for eight years. During the massive economic downturn in 2008, Flaherty guided not only the Canadian economy to survive; but it revived much sooner than any other. The IMF, the OECD, and others have recognized this for many years.

Jim Flaherty's presence was felt on the international scene as well. Tim Powers, a political analyst and consultant, recently recounted about how close the world was to financial meltdown. However, Flaherty was able, with only a few hours left before complete collapse; to get the other Finance Ministers to adopt a

new course of action, which stayed the impending doom.

Many prominent and influential people around the world have sent in their tributes. One of them was someone who had worked very closely with Jim over the years. Mark Carney, the Governor of the Bank of England, was for many years the Governor of the Bank of Canada. He and Jim did so good at guiding the Canadian economy that Mark was chosen to go to London and clean up the mess there. Carney is the first non-Brit to hold this position. Carney, also gave much credit to Flaherty for his handling the nation's finances.

What really hit people hard was the suddenness of Jim Flaherty's demise. It was like Princess Dianna. Very sudden, and very unexpected. It shook people so hard, because it reminded them that no-one is invincible. Everyone is vulnerable. Its happening just before Resurrection Sunday, adds to the impact. Not many like to talk about death and the afterlife. Most are in denial, that someday they too will pass from this earth. And then what?

Some believe that they will come back in another life form. The Word of the True and Living God says otherwise. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27)

Some try to amass as much wealth as they can, trying to buy their way into Heaven. And He said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? So he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry. But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. Then He said to His disciples, Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is

more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. (Luke 12:15-31)

This is the Season that Biblical Christians commemorate how Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, shed His Pure and Precious Blood on Calvary's Cross to pay the penalty for our sins. And as He said, He rose from the dead on the third day. And forty days later He ascended back up to Heaven. He has promised that He is coming back for His Own. He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

In spite of all the sudden happenings; God is still in control. He sent His Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ down here to Shed His Blood, and pay the penalty for our sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ has advice for everyone. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. (John 3:7)

He still wants you to spend Eternity with Him, and His Heavenly Father. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

And he brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household. (Acts 16:30-31)

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

(Romans 10:13)

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