

The Straw and the Camel

Almost every day now, the media has an account of someone losing control and snapping. The main one this week, was of the son of a Hollywood producer. After years of unrealized dreams and ambitions, he took matters into his own hands. When the shootings were over, he and at least seven others were dead. How tragic. What caused this sudden and destructive impulsion? What straw broke the camel's back?

There are many others like him around the world. Their world is rapidly changing, and not for the better. They feel threatened, and powerless to do anything about it. So, in an act of desperation, they lash out at the perceived abuse. Sometimes, it was their own fault; and sometimes it wasn't.

Judas Iscariot got himself into a bad position. When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? You see to it! Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood. And they consulted together and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the

children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD directed me. (Matthew 27:1-10)

The world of politics is seeing a similar situation also. Everywhere, major upsets are being recorded. Many opinion poll companies are at a loss of why they didn't divine the unexpected outcome. In Quebec, the minority PQ wanted a majority. They manipulated the people with a hot button issue. They achieved a good lead in the polls. Then at the critical point, the premier called a snap election. When the dust had settled; the PQ were soundly trounced, and the premier even lost her own riding.

Europe has just had their election. The results have many in shock. Some have even called it a political earthquake. People, tired of being controlled and manipulated by the continental politicians, and technocrats rose up in revolt. They dumped many status quo candidates, and voted for the Eurosceptics. Only time will tell how far this goes; but clearly it will not be business as usual.

Many years ago, there was a group of people who had their backs to the wall. They didn't snap into an act of uncontrolled violence. They did go to their godly leader, and he corrected the situation. And there was a great outcry of the people and their wives against their Jewish brethren. For there were those who said, We, our sons, and our daughters are many; therefore let us get grain, that we may eat and live. There were also some who said, We have mortgaged our lands and vineyards and houses, that we might buy grain because of the famine. There were also those who said, We have borrowed money for the king's tax on our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children; and indeed we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been brought into slavery. It is not in our power

to redeem them, for other men have our lands and vineyards. And I became very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. After serious thought, I rebuked the nobles and rulers, and said to them, Each of you is exacting usury from his brother. So I called a great assembly against them. And I said to them, According to our ability we have redeemed our Jewish brethren who were sold to the nations. Now indeed, will you even sell your brethren? Or should they be sold to us? Then they were silenced and found nothing to say. Then I said, What you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the nations, our enemies? I also, with my brethren and my servants, am lending them money and grain. Please, let us stop this usury! Restore now to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their olive groves, and their houses, also a hundredth of the money and the grain, the new wine and the oil, that you have charged them. So they said, We will restore it, and will require nothing from them; we will do as you say. Then I called the priests, and required an oath from them that they would do according to this promise. Then I shook out the fold of my garment and said, So may God shake out each man from his house, and from his property, who does not perform this promise. Even thus may he be shaken out and emptied. And all the assembly said, Amen! and praised the LORD. Then the people did according to this promise. Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year until the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the governor's provisions. But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of God. Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall, and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work. And

at my table were one hundred and fifty Jews and rulers, besides those who came to us from the nations around us. Now that which was prepared daily was one ox and six choice sheep. Also fowl were prepared for me, and once every ten days an abundance of all kinds of wine. Yet in spite of this I did not demand the governor's provisions, because the bondage was heavy on this people. Remember me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people. (Nehemiah 5:1-19)

No matter what happens; 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)

Pastor T John Franklin

Church of Salvation, Healing and Deliverance

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