

Tough Choices

Is there anyone alive, who has had an easy path from the cradle to the grave? I am not aware of anyone. The poor are always struggling to keep their heads above the water. Brazil's leaders want so desperately to be seen as a first world nation, instead of an emerging economy. They promoted themselves so well, that they got the 2014 FIFA. The government has spent billions of dollars to get ready. They did not have an adequate stadium, so they built an expensive 44,000 seat one. Brazilians are not overly happy with the whole process. Instead of inflating national pride; they prefer to have that kind of money helping them with the basics of living. They show their appreciation by having nightly riots.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

First world nations are not having an easy time now either. And they are constantly bombarded with demands from the others to cough up more money. Take a look at the USA. They are in a constant election cycle every two years. They are virtually politically dysfunctional, with brinkmanship manoeuvring as the order of the day. Some say that these are all managed crisis by the White House. The inaction on Iran. The lack of support for Ukraine. The release of the Gitmo Five. The VA debacle; which has killed thousands of vets, by denying them health care. The encouraging of illegal peoples from Mexico to stream over the border without doing anything to protect their own citizens. Texas alone is getting over 1,000 every day.

And I will make drunk Her princes and wise men, Her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep And not awake, says the King, Whose name is the LORD of hosts. (Jeremiah 51:57)

Second tier nations, like Canada, are in the middle. They are envied by those below them, and looked down upon, by those above. While life is improving on the national level, and on most of the provinces; Quebec and Ontario are pulling everyone else down. However, Quebec is trying. They recently had an election, where they turfed out the PQ, and brought in some fiscal conservatives. They are working to get the province's finances in order.

Ontario is in worse shape than Quebec, even worse than California. They too had an election. The choices were clear and defined. The socialists, Liberals and NDP wanted higher taxes and more spending. The Progressive Conservatives advocated fiscal restraint. The opinion polls had the PCs and the Liberals tied right up to the end. Who was going to come out on top, or would there be another minority government?

There were some outside influencing factors. The international credit rating agencies told Ontario, that if the defeated budget was passed into law, they would downgrade the province's credit rating. Then they would be paying more interest on the large debt and deficit. The unions lied about the PCs wanting to cut thousands of jobs, and blitzed the media with non-stop propaganda. They scared the voters with their fear-mongering, and dooms-day scenarios.

So the people of Ontario had tough choices to make. Which way did they go? Unfortunately they did not make the wise one. They gave the Liberals a majority mandate. This was not the only time that people made the unwise choice. Now it came to pass

when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice. Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, Give us a king to judge us. So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day--with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods, so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them. So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. And he said, This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men, and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. And you will cry out in that

day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. So the LORD said to Samuel, Heed their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said to the men of Israel, Every man go to his city. (1 Samuel 8:1-22)

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)

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