

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #11

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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Why Does Violence Erupt? By John T. Polk II

1. The wrong people are free to roam the streets: those who have The Spirit of Barabbas

"Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?'" (**Matthew 27:17**). Pilate could "find no fault in" Jesus (**John 19:4, 6**), but the stirred-up mob only said, "Crucify Him" (**Luke 23:21**). Barabbas was "notorious" (**Matthew 27:16**), in a city rebellion committing murder (**Mark 15:7; Luke 23:19**), "a robber" (**John 18:40**). What a choice: an "evil man," who "seeks only rebellion" (**Proverbs 17:11**), or Jesus Christ who had "no fault." *Pilate represented the "legal system" (today, it's the courts, politicians, demonstrations, and propaganda) permitting removal of Jesus Christ but freeing criminals.* God warned, "Do not associate with those given to change" (**Proverbs 24:21**). "Barabbas" on the streets, instead of Jesus Christ, is to "sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind" (**Hosea 8:7**).

2. There is confusion between A Cause Or A Case?

"The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him" (**Proverbs 18:17**). When "news" often becomes "noise," surely we see Solomon's wisdom. *Just because someone claims to have been wronged, there may be another "side" (or facts!) to be considered.* We cannot jump into a decision with signs, slogans, or street mobs and act too hastily. "The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps" (**Proverbs 14:15**). A "prudent" person uses the responsible filter of personal judgment before any action. "A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished" (**Proverbs 22:3**). Prejudice does not help for: "He who answers a matter before he hears it, It is folly and shame to him" (**Proverbs 18:13**). Timeless truth for our times!

3. The loudest are reported by Media: Bullhorn "Brothers?"

"An ungodly man digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the

best of friends. A violent man entices his neighbor, And leads him in a way that is not good" (**Proverbs 16:27-29**). The "ungodly" never forgive for they dig up and live in the past. "A perverse man" (one who "devises evil continually," **Proverbs 6:14**) "sows strife," and where there is no "talebearer, the strife ceases" (**Proverbs 26:20**). *Interestingly, the "ungodly," "perverse," "whisperer," and "violent" people are the ones in mobs with the bullhorns!* Quell the riot with Jesus' words: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (**Matthew 6:14-15**). Sane reasoning and forgiveness of the offender(s) should calm down any reasonable people in the mob.

4. Only one solution is offered: Violence

No one who resorts to violence is for justice. "Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking" (**Proverbs 24:1-2**). "Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them" (**Proverbs 28:4**). *Only lawbreakers praise lawbreakers. Only the wicked defend the wicked. Those who live lawfully must stand up against them.* "He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD" (**Proverbs 17:15**). It is an injustice department that releases the guilty and punishes the obedient. "The violence of the wicked will destroy them, Because they refuse to do justice" (**Proverbs 21:7**). "The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates" (**Psalms 11:5**).
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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ It's so strange that autumn is so beautiful;
yet everything is dying.

~When you're happy you enjoy the music,
when you're sad you understand the lyrics.

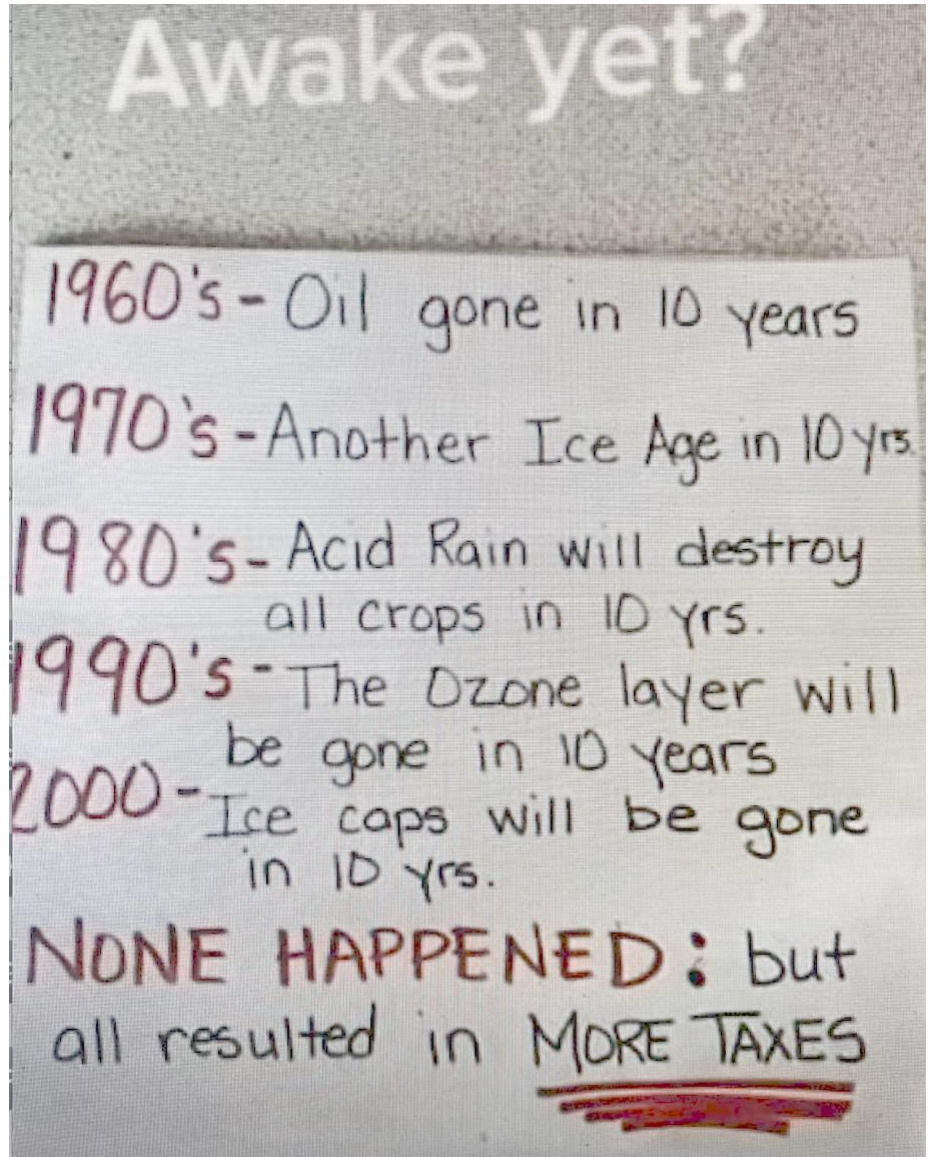
~"As a well-spent day brings happy sleep,
so a life well spent brings happy death." ~Leonardo Da Vinci

~We hang petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. ~Aesop, Greek slave & fable author

RULES TO TEACH YOUR SON

1. Never shake a man's hand sitting down.
2. Don't enter a pool by the stairs.
3. The man at the BBQ Grill is the closest thing to a king.
4. In a negotiation, never make the first offer.
5. Request the late check-out.
6. When entrusted with a secret, keep it.
7. Hold your heroes to a higher standard.
8. Return a borrowed car with a full tank of gas.
9. Play with passion or don't play at all...
10. When shaking hands, grip firmly and look them in the eye.
11. Don't let a wishbone grow where a backbone should be.
12. If you need music on the beach, you're missing the point.
13. Carry two handkerchiefs. The one in your back pocket is for you. The one in your breast pocket is for her.
14. You marry the girl, you marry her family.
15. Be like a duck. Remain calm on the surface and paddle like crazy underneath.
16. Experience the serenity of traveling alone.
17. Never be afraid to ask out the best looking girl in the room.
18. Never turn down a breath mint.
19. A sport coat is worth 1000 words.
20. Try writing your own eulogy. Never stop revising.
21. Thank a veteran. Then make it up to him.
22. Eat lunch with the new kid.
23. After writing an angry email, read it carefully. Then delete it.
24. Ask your mom to play. She won't let you win.
25. Manners maketh the man.
26. Give credit. Take the blame.
27. Stand up to Bullies. Protect those bullied.
28. Write down your dreams.
29. Take time to snuggle your pets, they love you so much and are always happy to see you.
30. Be confident and humble at the same time.
31. If ever in doubt, remember whose son you are and REFUSE to just be ordinary!
32. In all things lead by example not explanation.

ANONYMOUS



Jesus Speaks Today

"For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

John 12:8