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Subject: Fwd: God Expects Responsible Leadership

Friends,

Another friend wrote this, and I thought you would be interested in reading it. In my opinion the saying that we need to "Pray, Think and Vote" is the most sure way we have of insuring that our nation will survive as we know it.

ED

“I have sinned against the Lord” (II Sam. 12:14).

When Israel’s leader was confronted with his failings, David confessed that he had fallen short of being a king after God’s own heart. Responsible people take responsibility for themselves and those they place in positions of leadership.

From the Thirteenth Century signing of the Magna Carta, to the Sixteenth Century nailing of the Ninety-five Theses to the church door, to the Seventeenth Century constitutional Cromwellian protectorship, to the Eighteenth Century Declaration of Independence, great movements and nations are decorated with responsible leadership. These human thunderbolts accept the good and bad accompanying leadership. The honest, virtuous

and steadfast leader knows he does not possess the answers to all the issues of his day. Nonetheless, he sallies forth in the interest of doing right just because it is right and he admits his failures even as he credits his accomplishments to others serving in the same cause.

Every cause and nation require the force of example. The eyes of worthy leaders dance at the opportunity to take the risks that can make generational differences. They recognize that every risk births much criticism. Nevertheless, these meteors in the governing firmament breast the storms accompanying responsible leadership.

You would never want someone leading you in any cause who is fearful of being held accountable for his decisions. In the heat of battle, one of the struggles defining worthy leaders is their willingness to admit failure and the damage accompanying their lack of wisdom.

If you are being led by one refusing to take responsibility for himself or those he places in positions of authority, you are not being well-led. His fearfulness to take blame and defensiveness of the cause(s) for failure are the marks of either a lack of wisdom or a fraud. That person is irresponsible and his followers are famined beggars starving for leadership.

Fearlessness is vital to effective leadership. When someone is fearful of confessing his miscalculations, misappropriations or misunderstanding, his presence poses a danger to those he purportedly represents and the tasks he is responsible for addressing. Leaders refuse hiding behind others or fleeing to verbal excuses. Leaders do not allow political emotions to usurp good governance.

The pathogen of defensive self-centeredness disallows acknowledging responsibility even as it plays to vice and defeat rather than virtuous victory. Those refusing to admit their decisional gaffes are insulters of the offices they profess to hold because the office is actually holding them. They are pursuing the office for the notoriety and honor it brings them rather than the duties it requires of them. They are unfit to govern others because they cannot even govern their own minds and emotions. The acid test of genuine leadership is sobriety concerning what should be done, what needs to be done, what can be done and the means to carry out the action. If they are unwilling to concede what is evident to objective onlookers, their tenure should be addressed.

The revolutionaries of 1776 bore faces furrowed by battles, ages and unassignable duties. Their concern for their country bore much weight. They would do nothing to tarnish the escutcheon of their cause. And when they acted unwisely, they accepted responsibility as well as the consequences flowing therefrom.



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