

Hitting Hardest When the Iron is Hottest

“Arise ye, and depart; for this is not your rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction”—Micah 2:10. Every object is believed to be in a state of rest until a force is applied. What a force is designed to accomplish is to enforce a change, be it good or bad.

There is a time and season for everything under the sun, and time consciousness is a function of understanding the components that make happen the arrival and departure of the times and seasons.

“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment”—1 Chronicles 12:32. Power is great, but wisdom is greater, for by the latter comes caution and restraint and the application of what makes it unnecessary to engage a double-barrelled gun against a troublesome fly.

Power is a commodity that most people seek to buy at an exorbitant price with a demand that is greater than the supply, whereas only few place an order for wisdom making for a supply that is greater than the demand. People forget, and frequently, that what power gets will require wisdom for preservation. The use of power will only be positive when applied in a way that commensurates the demand for it, for where the supply is more than the demand, the result is inflation, and a situation that makes the things of value to become valueless. People easily fall from grace to grass for lack of wisdom. Wisdom is the principal thing and it is the substance which makes every other thing that man may need in life become secondary. Wisdom is worth pursuing with life because getting it is what preserves life. If you lose your life for wisdom, you will surely find it, and if you keep your life at the expense of wisdom, you will lose it.

Believe it or not, what turns its face to one automatically turns its back to another. Where fire serves as a positive force to bring about the beauty of an object, the same fire brings the demise of another. Understanding the uses into

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which fire is put makes it friendly and needed, and lack of understanding of applications makes a friend to look like an enemy. In the world of reality, your best friend could be your worst enemy and your worst enemy could be your best friend. The hotter the iron, the lesser the force that is required to make a change, and rather than hitting hardest when the iron is hottest, common sense should dictate that at that point, the least force is required to command the subjection of the iron to achieve the desire of the one applying the force.

“If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct”—Ecclesiastes 10:10. Leadership positions confer on the leaders power, but wisdom is the required instrument to achieve success and progress in any given situation. Lack of wisdom makes a dictator, and it is not how well-equipped leaders are with the weapons of oppression and intimidation that guarantee for them victory in the face of battle. It is more of the understanding they have about the dynamics of the source of power that confers on them the spirit of dominion and excellence in their area of assignment. “The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle”—Psalm 78:9.

Until the time when our leaders humble themselves and appreciate the place of the rulership of God in the kingdom of men, all efforts and resources deployed in the direction of the achievement of greatness, progress and stability, will be tantamount to wasted efforts and the overhitting of the overheated iron, for no blacksmith knows what to forge with an iron dross.

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