

ON THE FRONTIER

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel”

That's Show Business

by Linus A. Mathis III

Today's steady rise in violence can be attributed to a number of things, not the least of which is a growing insensitivity to human suffering. The depraved acts of the "modern" criminal have reached new lows. One wonders how such an advanced civilization could have birthed such barbarism. How could we have become so calloused? How could this "age of information and advancement" be so disfigured by brutality and ignorance? Why is it that those who discharge this savagery are getting younger all the time? How can a nation whose children are so privileged be so churlish?

These are thought provoking questions, aren't they! Yet, there have been few, if any, satisfying addresses given this dilemma of escalating violence. As few realize and many deny, the answers are spiritual. They are found in the Bible and the reward is in their application.

The Word of God tells us that man lives his life from the inside out and therefore should guard his heart (the innermost sanctuary of the mind) above all else.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Matthew 12:35

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

We hear people say that so and so has a "good heart." This is often the declaration in the face of an admittedly evil or reprehensible deed. According to

what Jesus Christ said it is the contents of the heart that make for the production of both good and evil.

Mark 7:18-23

And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him;

Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?

And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

If you want to take oatmeal cookies out of your cookie jar then you had better put them in it. This is why the record in Proverbs 4:23 exhorts us to keep (guard) our hearts with all diligence. If we want real change, we must address the heart. You are responsible for what you allow in your heart. You must see to its contents to ensure their goodness.

With this principle in place we could now respond to a number of situations, but for brevity's sake let's confront only one. Consider what is deemed to be entertainment. Your average "Joe" derives great pleasure from watching inordinately brutal acts of violence on the "Silver Screen." After all, that's entertainment! What's worse is what our children are subjected to.

Animation or live action, violence is violence. A child is not capable of internalizing the violence that today is so commonplace. A youngsters mind does not have the capability of discernment necessary to deal with such a harsh deluge of filth. Make no mistake, adults do not walk away unscathed either. Your mind becomes so desensitized to pain and suffering (the experts call it experience replacement or depravation) that somehow justification is seen in countless abhorrent acts of murder and cruelty. The movie industry has invented ways to torment that would make the Marquis De Sade ashamed. The age of the "dark hero" is a blight on society as are the "wonderful" special effects which dazzle us so.

Still, movie makers continue to deny any culpability. Yes mother, movies do inspire violent acts and they have made us into a nation rife with lusts like the one which gave birth to the gladiatorial arena. Corrupt practices are being acknowledged under the guise of "artistic expression." Men who love money more than God continue to erode our society while hiding behind a cloak of pretense and quoting the first amendment. No wonder we find it so difficult to help one another! We need heart transplants ASAP!

Jeremiah 17:9,10

Psalms 139:23,24

Ezekiel 36:26
