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EDITORIAL . . .

“Dr. Martin Luther King . . . AND SOME OF OUR BRETHREN”

Three months ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered. The deed was cowardly to say the least. Millions of people, and certainly all Christians, deplore this lawless act committed against a fellow citizen of the United States.

Now that the initial emotionalism has subsided it is proper that a few observations be made . . . especially in view of the evident influence that Mr. King had on many . . . including some in the church.

It is noteworthy to point out that in the personality of Martin Luther King, there was the combination of some very puzzling contradictions. He set himself forward as a religious minister, yet he did not believe the Bible. As a minister he was supposed to “preach Christ” yet he did not accept the virgin birth and the deity of Jesus Christ. Early in his life as a minister he adopted the philosophy of India’s Ghandi more than he accepted the principles of Christ. (National Observer, December 30, 1963)

Martin Luther King hailed himself as the apostle of non-violence. Yet, everywhere he went he sowed the seeds of violence and so often violence followed. Actually, he was a lawbreaker, although a pretended “non-violent” one. He vowed that he would obey only the laws that pleased him. In Memphis he announced, “There ain’t no injunction going to turn us around.” By word and deed, he has been a most effective force for lawlessness in our country.

U. S. Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia stated in a speech before the Senate, as recorded in the Congressional Record,

“Why cannot our people revere and respect and obey the laws of the country which gave most of us birth and which we all should love?”

“There is a lesson to be drawn from what happened in Memphis and from what has been happening with increasing intensity throughout the nation in recent years. That is, that mass protests, mass demonstrations, and mass marches and the like — whether labeled non-violent or otherwise — can only serve to encourage unrest and disorder, and to provoke violence and bloodshed. And, in the end, those who advocate such methods often become, themselves, the victims of the forces they themselves set in motion.

“This, in a manner, is what happened to Dr. King. He usually spoke of non-violence, yet violence all too often attended his actions. And, at the last, he himself met a violent end.”

Mr. King explained his ideas on civil disobedience in terms of just and unjust laws, and how they are to be broken, during an interview on March 28, 1965, “Meet the Press”:

“I do feel that there are two types of laws. One is a just law and one is an unjust law. I think we all have moral obligations to disobey unjust laws.”

As properly stated by Justice Frankfurter,

“If one man can be allowed to determine for himself what is law, every man can. That means first chaos, then tyranny.”

The Apostle Paul said in his epistle to the Romans, “Let every soul be subject unto higher powers.”

To Titus he said, “Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates . . .”

Thus, the Apostle Paul admonishes all to obey the law and to respect authority, and those who refuse bring on serious risks and consequences.

Have we so soon forgotten that our forefathers came over from the old country to establish a decent society? Yet, there are seemingly always present those who would destroy it and in so doing destroy themselves.

It is beyond comprehension how any, especially some of our own brethren, could support the principles that guided the life of Martin Luther King. But such is evidently the case. One Christian College in West Texas

lowered the American flag to half-mast in honor of Mr. King; but the same school did not pay the same respect and honor when recently one of our own great Negro preachers, MARSHALL KEEBLE — sound in the faith, fruitful and law-abiding — passed this life. This school lowered the flag for a Baptist preacher, but not for a gospel preacher.

While it is true that the President ordered the flag flown at halfmast on all NATIONAL PROPERTIES and INSTALLATIONS, congress did not pass a law demanding this of PRIVATE citizens and PRIVATE institutions. It was a matter of choice — not a law to be obeyed.

Another one of our schools conducted a memorial service wherein Dr. King was eulogized. Maybe this is what is called a “Liberal” Arts education. It should go without saying that our Christian Colleges should teach respect for law and order . . . patriotism . . . and good citizenship and not hold up a self-admitted lawbreaker as a subject of praise and honor.

From the West Coast comes an official news release from another of our Christian Colleges stating on a certain date one of our young and dynamic radio evangelists would talk to the student body on the subject, “THE CONTINUING MESSAGE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.” If there was ever a message that needed to be DIS-continued, it is the message of Martin Luther King.

The church is in danger of suffering irreparable harm if those in positions of leadership, be they radio evangelist or college professor, persist in taking the church down the road of ultra-liberalism . . . the first step having always been to break down respect for the Bible . . . constituted and delegated authority.



MARSHALL KEEBLE



MARTIN LUTHER KING