

A person is standing on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds, and the water is a deep blue with white foam from the waves. The person is silhouetted against the bright light of the sky and water.

Think of Your FUTURE

Elders' Series Aug-Sept 2020

Micaiah, A Voice of Truth in an Age of Political Correctness

1Kings 22

1Thess. 5:21 “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good”



God's Truth is our North Star

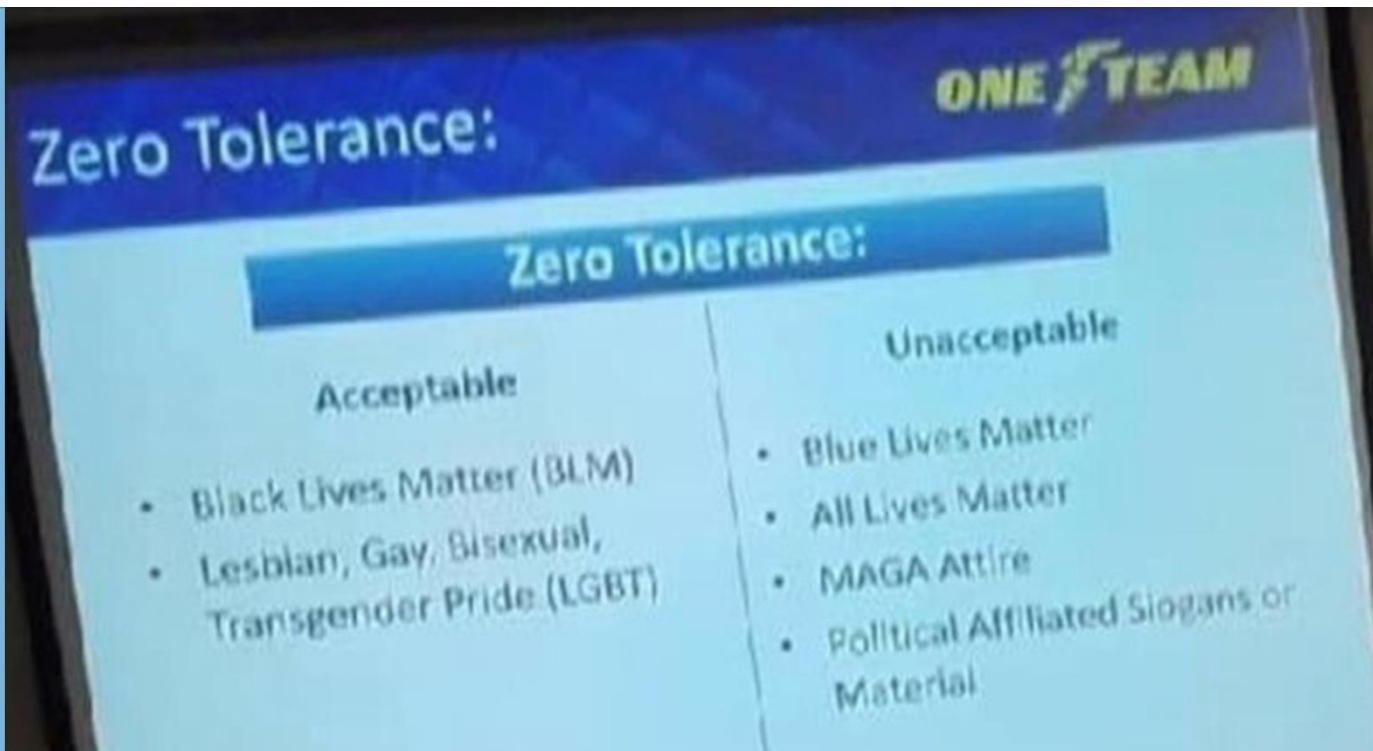


What is meant by political correctness?

- We are not talking about identifying with a political party.
- “Advocates of political correctness argue that our perception of other people is greatly influenced by the language we hear used about them. Language, therefore, when used carelessly or maliciously, can reveal and promote our biases against various identity groups.”
- “Persons opposed to political correctness regard it as a form of censorship that quashes freedom of speech and dangerously restricts public debate on important social issues...”

Robert Longley





“Human Lives Matter, Human Dignity Matters, we are one blood, one race and we need to learn to live together as brothers and sisters and not hurt each other and perish together as fools.”

Dr. Alveda King (Niece of Dr. Martin Luther King)



“In a nation founded on the freedom to speak freely, more and more Americans are afraid to speak up — not because of their government, but because of what has become a standard of acceptable views largely driven by extremists — including Antifa, anarchists and cultural Marxists.

That standard has led to peer speech policing, employment termination, doxing and political violence as a response to what used to be known as expressions of free speech.

According to a recent poll, more and more Americans of all political orientations admit they’re afraid to speak up.”

The Clarion Project



Vs 4b “And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, ‘I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.’”

Jehoshaphat was good king, but He made some serious mistakes:

1) He allowed his son Jehoram, to marry the daughter of Ahab (2Chron. 21:6).

2 Corinthians 6:14-18: “Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,’ says the Lord. ‘And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

* When thinking of your future, the second most important decision you’ll make in life is who you marry!



“And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, ‘I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.’”

Jehoshaphat was good king, but He made some serious mistakes:

- 1) He allowed his son Jehoram, to marry the daughter of Ahab (2Chron. 21:6).
- 2) Jehoshaphat made the foolish decision to enter into a military alliance with King Ahab.



1Kings 22:5 “Moreover, Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of the LORD."

After initially agreeing to side with Ahab, Jehoshaphat had second thoughts.

Inquiring of the Lord should have been Jehoshaphat's first response before responding to Ahab.

How often do we agree to a course of action, and then realize we didn't pray about it?

* In thinking of your future, purpose to make every decision a matter of prayer. Pray first, seeking the counsel of the Lord, before deciding.



Vs 6 “Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, ‘Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle or shall I refrain?’ And they said, ‘Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.

Vs 7 But Jehoshaphat said, ‘Is there not yet a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of him?’

Vs 8 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, ‘There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.’ But Jehoshaphat said, ‘Let not the king say so.’”



In vs 10-12 While the kings waited for Micaiah to arrive, Ahab's prophets were all saying, 'Go up to Ramoth-gilead and prosper, for the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.'

* When thinking of your future remember, the majority is not always right! "Don't go along with the crowd. Go with God" Nathan Nass

Matt. 7:13-15: "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it. Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves



Vs 13 Then the messenger who went to summon Micaiah spoke to him saying, "Behold now, the words of the prophets are uniformly favorable to the king. Please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably."

Vs 14 But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak."

* This is the key for being a spokesman for God.

How does God speak to us today? Through His Word.

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

*When thinking of your future, remember you are an ambassador of Christ, living and speaking on His behalf.



Vs 15,16 “When he came to the king, the king said to him, ‘Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?’ And he answered him, ‘Go up and succeed, and the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.’ Then the king said to him, ‘How many times must I adjure you to speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?’”



Vs 17 Micaiah solemnly says, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, Like sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master. Let each of them return to his house in peace.'"

Micaiah boldly tells it like it is: Israel would be defeated & king Ahab killed in battle.

18 Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"



Vs 19-23 And Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left. "And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said this while another said that. "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' "And the LORD said to him, 'How?' And he said, 'I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You are to entice him and also prevail. Go and do so.' "Now therefore, behold, the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the LORD has proclaimed disaster against you."

Was this deceiving spirit from God?



Is God the source of deception or lies?

- Numbers 23:19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”
- Titus 1:2 “in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago”



“God had already pronounced a death sentence upon Ahab (1 Kings 20:42, 21:19), but had given him opportunity to repent of his wickedness. With this final rejection of God’s counsel, God determined to carry out the death sentence. Since Ahab continued to prefer the lies of his false prophets over the truth given by God’s prophets, God chose to use the false prophets to carry out His plan. When God asked for volunteers to ‘entice Ahab to go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead’ (1 Kings 22:20), a spirit (fallen angel/demon) said he would be a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets. God gave the spirit permission to proceed, and Ahab received the message he desired.

The lying spirit will receive its punishment just as Ahab did, and those who repent of their sins will receive forgiveness just like Ahab could have. The real question is, ‘Will I respond to God’s warnings with faith and obedience, or will I reject His counsel and be rejected by Him?’”

GotQuestions.org



* What was the reaction to Micaiah's vision?

Vs 24 "Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, 'How did the Spirit of the LORD pass from me to speak to you?'"

vs 25 Micaiah calmly replied, 'Behold, you shall see on that day when you enter an inner room to hide yourself.'"



Vs 26 When king Ahab heard this he said, "Take Micaiah and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son; and say, 'Thus says the king, "Put this man in prison, and feed him sparingly with bread and water until I return safely. And Micaiah said, "If you indeed return safely the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Listen, all you people.'""

Micaiah paid a price for speaking the truth.

Jesus said in Matt. 5:10-12: "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."



* When thinking of your future, realize there can be a cost for standing for the truth.

Believers around the world continue to suffer persecution.

According to Open Doors in the last year:

2,983 Christians have been killed for their faith.

9,488 churches and other Christian buildings have been attacked.

3,711 believers have been detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned.

Last year a study commissioned by the British government concluded that Christianity is “by far the most widely persecuted religion” in the world and warns that it is nearing “genocide levels.”



1Kings 22:29,30 “So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up against Ramoth-gilead. And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, ‘I will disguise myself and go into the battle, but you put on your robes.’ So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into the battle.”

Ryrie: “By this cowardly suggestion Ahab showed that he secretly feared that Micaiah’s prophecy might be true!”

31-33 “Now the king of Aram had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, ‘Do not fight with small or great, but with the king of Israel alone.’ So it came about, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, ‘Surely it is the king of Israel,’ and they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out. Then it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.”



Vs 34-37 “Now a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, ‘Turn around, and take me out of the fight; for I am severely wounded.’ And the battle raged that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot in front of the Arameans, and died at evening, and the blood from the wound ran into the bottom of the chariot. Then a cry passed throughout the army close to sunset, saying, ‘Every man to his city and every man to his country.’ So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried the king in Samaria.”



Vs 38 “And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood (now the harlots bathed themselves there), according to the word of the LORD which He spoke.”



When thinking of your future:

- Avoid unequal yokes (2Cor. 6:14-18), whether relational or spiritual.
- Make every decision a matter of prayer.
- The majority is not always right. Don't go with the crowd. Go with God.
- Remember you are an ambassador for Christ, living and speaking on His behalf. 2Cor. 5:20
- There can be cost for speaking the truth. Matt. 5:10-12
- Speak the truth in love Eph 4:15
- Apply 2Tim 2:24-25: "And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth"



Kenneth McFarlan: “Along time ago they killed the Truth, they put the Truth to death, and buried the Truth. But they forgot something when you are dealing with the Truth: Even though you try to bury the Truth, there is always a third day, the Truth will rise again.”

As we think of the future, we want to do so holding fast to God’s truth in the spirit of Micaiah who said, “As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak.”

