

FaithPrayers

It is our privilege to pray for you

THE SEAT OF MOCKERS

Here in America, we live in a society that has, in great part, lost its way. The polarizations are now so deep that they have become a psychological study for those interested in such things. The many viewpoints have stopped listening to each other, refuse to acknowledge that someone on another 'side' may have even a minor point to make, and are degenerating into bunker states. While it has turned into a fascinating study for the history books, it's very sad to watch in real time.

We watch as some people on every side of the political spectrum mock the humanitarian or heartfelt efforts of those on another. Articles are written, defaming the inner character of individuals that the authors do not even know. Cutting quips are



posted in social media forums, and receive great accolades from those on the poster's 'side'. A wide variety of major religious beliefs are lampooned, from all sides, and it passes as humor.

How did this country get here? I believe that, aside from the growing distance from God, which is huge, that it got here by embracing mockery. The news shows, television programs, and citizens seem to revel in the twisted verbal knife jab, the ever-so-clever nuance of words that will supposedly 'bring down' the other side, even if only momentarily.

Mockery is a seriously detrimental attitude. Psalm 1:1 says: "Blessed is the man who does not sit in the seat of mockers". The word in that passage of scripture in Hebrew, its original language, means 'to mock, to hold in derision, to scorn, to make a mockery of, to talk big'.

But mockery is so much fun! It's so fun to watch the affirming expression on your friends' faces when you make a clever jab against the opposition. And it's so fun to watch the 'enemies' faces fall when we have such a well-wrought

put down that they can't possibly think of an answer to it. What a riot of false self-esteem floods in to the mocker. A warm wave of camaraderie goes through the room – at someone else's expense. We appear to operate in a philosophy that if someone runs for office then they 'asked for it' in terms of being made fun of. Unfortunately their children, families, and friends are now included.

The next time we are tempted to put someone down or to point out how stupid they must be, when we wait for the laughter and acceptance from our compatriots as they applaud our brilliant mockery, perhaps a pause to consider the workings of reality would be in order.

For the reality is, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows, that he *will* reap (Galatians 6:7). Don't sow mockery into your own life. We operate on the illusion that when we mock we are sowing it into the other person's life. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are, instead, sowing it into our own. What we give, we will indeed receive. How we treat others is how we will be treated.

"My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations..."

Isaiah 56:7

Matthew 21:13

THE SEAT OF MOCKERS (continued)

Perhaps the most impacting psychological study of all, when they write the history books for future generations regarding our time, will be the plethora of television recordings and stacks of writing from a civilization that enjoyed mockery and one-upmanship. A sad, sputtering sort of commentary on a people who were once trying, on many sides, to make a society that had merit.

Yes, it is critically important to stand up for one's beliefs. It is also important to not mock other people. Unfortunately, once allowed to run amuck, mockery is hard to rein in. Proverbs 9 tells us that if you correct a wise man he will love you for it, but to attempt to correct a mocker is to invite insult and abuse. (Proverbs 9:7-



9). And those insults and that abuse often eventually take serious forms, as when Jesus was mocked on the way to the cross.

King Solomon seemed to think that mockery was one of the underpinnings of a society of fools. He wrote about the subject quite a bit. Maybe most poignant of everything he said on this subject is his statement that, if we get rid of mocking, both strife and quarrelling will leave, and abuse will stop. (Proverbs 22:10).

At FaithPrayers we hope that you will take courage and commit to straightforwardness and clear speech as you express the solidness of your faith and of your viewpoints during these days. That your speech will be "seasoned with salt and graciousness" (Colossians 4:6) in these troubled times. Voices need to be heard, but not voices of mockery. We are at the point where it now takes a strong counter-cultural stand to not sit in "the seat of mockers".

On the prayer line, we are highly aware of the desperate state in this



nation as we answer the calls from thousands of hurting people. Their jobs are gone. Their homes are gone. Marriages are disintegrating and many children are wandering in aimlessness. People are scared about an assortment of things, regardless of what the news does or doesn't say, regardless of what sort of political party they may have once or currently participate in. We know because we are speaking to them. Their situation is not something to make jokes about.

Praying for peace and stability, and a renewed sense of God's presence in our nation...

~ Mary Ann Offenstein
Founder, FaithPrayers

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



“Love does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

1 Corinthians 13: 4-6

■ Have a prayer request? Want more information? We can always be contacted on our 24 hour a day, 7 day a week toll-free prayer line.

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