

WHO LET THE DOG'S OUT? / TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES / CHOICES

(I don't really have a title, I'm just rambling)

"1 Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold.

2 The rich and the poor have this in common: The LORD made them both.

3 A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. "

-Proverbs 22:1-3 (New Living Translation)

Saints, I'm in San Jose California. I just finished reading the daily Scripture offered on the church website which is Proverbs Chapter 22. The television is on and I'm tired of hearing about this Michael Vick stuff. So, I thought I'd write a little bit about it. Here it goes...

WOW! Have you paid attention lately to the onslaught of media attention given to certain professional athletes for the poor and the paralyzing choices they've made?

For the past few weeks the sports world in America, yea even "serious" news outlets such as: CNBC, Headline News., MSNBC, ABC, CBS AND NBC have given much time to the allegations that Mr. Michael Vick, star quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons, has bank-rolled and participated in the gruesome and ghastly backdoor and backwoods business of dog fighting.

I don't believe there is a sensible and sane one among us that does not recognize the fact that dog fighting is a bloody and brutal sport (*yes I said "sport"- after all when it's people fighting people we call it "sport"- even when it's not legalized*); that often leaves the participating dogs a mangled mess from the mauling that takes place in battle.

However, at the same time, I don't believe there is a sensible, sane and *Saved* one among us that is not equally bothered by the fact that many of the same people who are yelling and yelping for the incarceration of Mr. Vick, the cancellation of his NFL career and connected product endorsements; and the humiliation of his name at large- who is not bothered by the exercise of perpetual silence on matters of much greater importance!

For example, nobody's talking about the fact that we are a voyeuristic people who are addicted to watching other people, animals and things experience both pain and what we perceive to be pleasure. Huh??? We're so voyeuristic that the most popular form of television today is what we call Reality T.V. You know what I'm talking about! Shows like: *The Real World; Being Bobby Brown; Hogan Knows Best; and Scott Baio 45* reign supreme! Moreover, we love to watch people and animals compete! In fact, we lust for it so much that the media driven society in which we live gives us an almost un-ending array of shows to choose from. They include such television shows as: *American Idol; America's Next Top Model; Dancing With The Stars; Making The Band; Challenge; Stump the Schwab*; etc.

For example, *partial birth abortion* is a real problem in this Country! You know what I'm talking about? The procedure where a pregnant woman goes into a Clinic and chooses (*often under the pressure of her boyfriend, husband, parents or career*); to have a *partial birth abortion*. This is the one where the babies head is allowed to come out of the womb, only to be grabbed by the medical professional, and held steady while a lethal injection is pumped into him at the base of the neck... and this precious gift from **GOD** dies.

Has anyone stopped to take a look at the base and barbaric "Sport" we call *Ultimate Fighting* aka the *UFC*? You know this one, it's where two men are placed in a cage, surrounded by screaming "fans"; and then commence to bludgeoning and beating one another into a bloody pulp- unless of course one of the two men surrender prior to the complete, no holds barred brawl. The UFC is where no gloves are worn, elbows to the face are commonplace and body slams are not the choreographed stunts that are pushed off as reality- as they often are in the various professional wrestling circles such as the WFC and RAW wrestling organizations.

Has anyone, other than the victims of such tragedies- stopped to push, promote and publicize (*as they have the allegations against Mr. Vick*); the fact that professional wrestlers seem to be dropping like flies, having given way to the cocktail of steroids, pain killers and a year-round working calendar that gives no time off for vacations and the like? And, in at least one of the two most recent cases involving the death of a professional wrestler, he did not kill himself before he'd murdered his wife and small son!

Is anyone paying attention to the fact that there is something drastically wrong in our world when we give more time, attention, energy and effort to the allegations of an NFL star and his involvement in dog-fighting than we do to the abuse of **HUMAN BEINGS** in Darfur, Africa; or **HUMAN BEINGS** dying everyday in the Middle East; or **HUMAN BEINGS** who are homeless in Arizona and America at large; or **HUMAN BEINGS** who are dropping out of school in record numbers; or **HUMAN BEINGS** that are selling their bodies for a drugs; or **HUMAN BEINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HELL!!!**

Now, I'm not saying that dog fighting is right. I'm not advocating the cruel and unusual punishment of dogs in our society. In fact I believe that anyone found to be guilty of the allegations levied against Mr. Vick should be treated appropriately.

However, I am saying that Michael Vick is not the first person to be accused of dog fighting. And yes, I know it's against the law in this Country; and a felony in 48 of 50 States. If we're going to mete out punishment to Mr. Vick, then let's be fair and equitable across the board.

Instead of trying to use him as a stepping stone to further someone's career as an advocate for animal rights; instead of trying to use him as the role model of how not to treat animals in America; let's go after the real "*Big Dogs*"! The big dogs who are putting people in a fighting ring of their own design, for the purpose of watching them destroy one another.

In Proverbs 22, The **LORD** talks about the value of a "*good name*". He says it's to be chosen above "great riches". The **LORD** also declares that "*the prudent man foresees the danger ahead and takes precaution*".. Finally, The **LORD** says that "*the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.*"

If the allegations are true where Mr. Vick is concerned he certainly had time to foresee the evil ahead and take precaution. To foresee danger and not take precaution is to be a simpleton! And, the consequences must be faced! What should those consequences be? I don't know? Perhaps the person who suggested that Mr. Vick be made eligible to play this season, then benched by the league and have at least half of this years salary go to an Animal Rights group, then be made to serve 500 hours of community service at an appropriate Animal facility in the summer is right? I don't know? What I do know is that we spend too much time barking up the wrong tree(s)!

Hmmm... I wonder where our world would be now, if I (*yes I*); and... you gave the attention, time, energy and effort that we give to talking about the allegations against Mr. Vick to the telling of the truth about **JESUS CHRIST** to other people? While I'm sure we'd still have sickness, separation and sin... I'm equally sure that this would please The **LORD**!

It's really not about Mr. Vick- it's about **JESUS CHRIST** The Victor! Now, run and tell that!!!

Safe In **CHRIST**,
Sherman J. Fort, Servant of **JESUS CHRIST**

Post Script: Forgive my typos and run-on sentences, I'm just in my hotel room and writing to y'all off the cuff! Charge my errors to my head and not my heart.