



#44

Theme: Abrupt Decisions and Wisdom

Scripture: James 1:5 (NIV)

“If any of you lacks wisdom he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him”

A Thought: In outlining the framework for this BL there was consternation on my part for the following reasons...what should be the overriding purpose of this week’s writing? Should it be on anger, discernment, judgement, bad decisions or choices? Pick one that you can identify with. Here goes. A few seconds to celebrate a “dunk” a moment, a quick choice and bad news. An instant nonsensical action.... a sweeping swing of a muscular arm and the use of a humungous elbow as a projectile made for one vicious blow square on the head of a multimillion dollar basketball star. The victim suffered a mild head concussion and the celebrant “dunker” placed his team in a playoff season predicament. As of today, many folks are involved in a plot of his undoing. All because of the person in question did not think of the consequences. Proverbs tells us...”A quick-tempered man acts foolishly.” Does this sound familiar? Of course it does. The Lord exhorts his people in various ways to think before we act...especially selfishly...Phil. 3-4 (NIV) *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* Our behavior on and off the court (sort of speak) is based on our focus on Him and to know, truly know His presence....Psalm 89:15 (NIV) *“Blessed are those who learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord”* No shortcuts. To be in His presence is to know Him and to know Him you must read the Word. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Are you aware of your own behavior? Do you know your limitations?
- Do you think before you act?
- Be honest...is there a selfish act of the past that you have to correct? What is stopping you from doing so? How about asking the Lord for help!

Scriptures to read:

- Ecclesiastic 7:9; Psalm 37:8; Proverbs 12:16, 14:17, 15:1; Isaiah 40:29-31
- Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-32; Matthew 5:22; John 17:20-23; James 1:5, 19;
- Hebrews 12:2; 2 Cor 4:16-18

Quote:

Anonymous *“There is an election going on all the time...the Lord votes for you and Satan votes against you, and you must cast the deciding vote.”*

Bottom Line:

For many years the basketball pro in question was known for his outrageous behavior and pugilistic reputation. In the past few years he has undergone a transformation that has led him even to change his name from Ronald Artest to “Metta” (Loving Kindness) World Peace. I’m not sure if Metta’s action was due to anger or ebullient celebration - the facts are that his decision affected not only his career but possibly many others. Truth be told all of us at one time or another have made decisions abruptly and have suffered the consequences. We have to acknowledge our mistakes and look to God for guidance. Through reading the word we can be in God’s presence...and we can be confident that God is in control. Psalm 143:10 (NIV) *“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”*

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

Please click: www.Missionebenezer.org/thebottomline#!the-bottom-line/cmX0