

The Slap

Last Sunday night, March 27th, the Oscars were on, and some how I missed it. Actually, I have not watched an award show of any type for many years. At one time I did but that was when the movies nominated for “Best Picture” were the ones people actually went to. Anyway, I missed this year’s award show but the next morning I heard about “the slap.”

Chris Rock, a comedian, made a joke pertaining to Jada Smith, an actress, and her lack of hair. Apparently, she has a medical condition which caused her to lose her hair. (I can sympathize with the hair loss part but mine is due to age and genetics). After said joke, her husband, Will Smith walked on stage and smacked Chris on the jaw. He then sat back down, had some choice words for the comedian.

Since this incident many comments have been said “Was this a publicity stunt?” If so, it worked. A very small audience was watching the show and nobody would know Will Smith won an award. Now a vast number knows he did win for his role in the movie “King Richard.” Also, Chris Rock, who I assume performs in concert, has increased his ticket prices due to the increase in demand. Probably next year’s Oscar Show will have an increase in television audience because people will want to see what will happen next. If it was not a stunt and was legit, it got a lot of people talking.

Was Will Smith out of line for smacking Chris Rock? Some say they would have done the same thing. Mr. Smith was protecting the honor of his wife, Jada. Any red-blooded American man would have done the same thing. Let me point out a simple fact. Jada and Will Smith have an “open marriage” which means they both have agreed to cheat on each other. It is hard to see Will Smith protecting Jada’s honor when they don’t honor their marriage bed. “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” (Hebrews 13:4). The first part of honoring your wife is to honor the vow taken before God to be faithful until death. So, leave me out of the “Will Smith protecting the honor of his wife camp.”

Was smacking Mr. Rock the thing most of us would have done? Let me point out most of us don’t get into fights on national television. What about talking things out first? I realize Matthew 18 deals with sin in the church but the instructions, if followed would clear up many disagreements and help to have peace between people. “Moreover, if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between

you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.” (Matthew 18:15). The rest of this passage speaks of taking two or three witnesses if the matter is not settled and then taking it before the church. Since I am not dealing with Christians, I realize Will and Chris would not do this, but at least Mr. Smith could at first expressed his displeasure. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, not thugs.

It is some what baffling to me how many in Hollywood and elsewhere agreed with Smith’s actions. These are the same folks who tell us to be non-violent, more open minded, and more loving. Those who say it is ok for gangs and mobs to rob stores and those who are harmed should just take it. Such does not apply in Hollywood on Oscar night!

Will Smith would have been right to protect the life of Jada Smith or anyone else’s. But Jada’s life was not in danger. There is something to be said about jokes which back fire. We have all tried to be funny only to have our “joke” fall flat or worse make someone angry. The Bible warns about coarse jesting. “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, **nor coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Ephesians 5:3-4, emphasis mine, D.T). Of course, people expect jokes when listening to a comedian but there are times feelings do get hurt. Hopefully, those hurt will not interpret our jokes for malicious intent. There have been times when I call somebody to make sure we are “O.K.”

Frankly, the one person who really came out of this looking good was Chris Rock. He stayed on stage, did his job, and did not over react. He could have pressed charges with the police, after all, he had over fifteen million witnessed, but he declined to do so. Those who know both men have said they worked out their disagreement later. Which is what should have happened before a slap occurred. Chris if given the change may have even apologized to Jada.

Finally, let me say I am a red blooded, male, American and have yet to smack anyone when provoked. So, stay away from me if you would agree with Will Smith.
– Dennis Tucker

(This article requires a “footnote” as Will Smith later resigned from the Academy and admit he was wrong in hitting Chris Smith and taking the spot light off others that night. Sometimes we mess up and have to ask for forgiveness. It reminds me of an old saying “Act in haste repent in leisure.”)