

Last week we released the Three Act Structure and a few scenes from the feature film script, "Travesty." We feel like we're to continue to have our Illustrated Messages focus on the full script, so over the next weeks, we'll be reviewing scenes and you'll see how the drama unfolds. So please click here to read the opening scenes of Travesty before continuing on.

Non-profit ministries and companies are under tighter scrutiny than ever before in North America. The misuse and misappropriation of the generous giving of both saints and sinners has caught the eye of governments. It wouldn't be surprising that in the next years, should the Lord tarry, that this could be taken away from us and that we'll no longer be able to receive tax right offs for our financial giving. The moral credibility of this scene begins unfolding as we see that thousands of everyday people who have supported Jubal Dove with their monthly support has been undermined and lost. The misappropriation here is that Steven is using these non-profit dollars that he's received from Jubal Dove, for his personal gain as you can see with his conversation with his accountant Gloria. He is only concerned about himself and not that of his staff. His love for power and wealth at others expense doesn't trigger conviction at all. Proverbs 3:27 says; *"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it,"* and Proverbs 28:27 says; *"He that gives to the poor shall not lack: but he that hides his eyes shall have many a curse."*

Televised fundraising and other fundraising ventures in both the secular and church worlds are common practice. Any method to raise support is considered. It almost becomes a competition to see who can out give another and also can be used to manipulate the audience to coerce them to give. It's great to be generous, but the Bible clearly outlines how are giving is to be in Matthew 6:1-4; *"Take heed that you do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise you have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you."* Jesus is talking about giving to the poor, but it should be common practice in all of our giving. Our reward is through Jesus, not through man.

Fornication and adultery is as prevalent in the Christian community as it with non-Christians and it ought not to be so. I Corinthians 10:11-13 shows clearly that temptations will come in these areas, but there is always a way of escape. It's called 'to flee' temptation. James 4:7 also says; *"Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* We see seduction, bribery, manipulation of money and power floating around the leaders at Jubal Dove. Judges 16:5 says; *"And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, 'Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.'"* Sally is acting the same way as Delilah did with Samson, prowling around seeing whom she can seduce. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, he explicitly says in Matthew 6:13; *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* All kinds of temptations fly in our face daily and Jesus knew that it would. Let's pray daily that the Father delivers us from the temptations that the devil would hurl at us.

Both bribery and false prophecy transpire as the evening goes forward. In the Illustrated Message called Lord, Lord that was shared on August 9th, we talked about how much false prophets exist. Exodus 23:8 says; *"Take no bribes, for a bribe makes you ignore something that you clearly see. A bribe makes even a righteous person twist the truth."* Can the righteous person be bribed; it clearly states that it does happen. Proverbs 17:23 also says; *"The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice."* Micah 3:11 says; *"Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. Yet they lean upon the LORD and say, 'Is not the LORD among us? No disaster will come upon us.'"* We could think that the decline in morality and godliness are only a thing of this century, but clearly it's been

going on for thousands of years. The word of God clearly reveals that those who practice such things are deceived.

II Peter 2:1-3 says; *“But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping.”* Is the truth of Jesus Christ being brought into disrepute in our generation? Clearly it is from what we’ve just read. Jeremiah has a strong word when he says in Jeremiah 14:14-15; *“Then the LORD said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.’ Therefore this is what the LORD says about the prophets who are prophesying in my name: I did not send them, yet they are saying, ‘No sword or famine will touch this land.’ Those same prophets will perish by sword and famine.”* Here are a few other Bible verses that relate to this; Matthew 7:15-16, Jeremiah 14:14-15, Jeremiah 23:16, Luke 6:26, John 10:12

One wonders how this can be! Peter says in I Peter 5:8-9; *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”*

Bringing these scenes to a close, we see both David and Sarah are living a double standard life as there is lying, deception and adultery in their lives. Colossians 3:9-10 says; *“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him,”* and in Ephesians 4:25; *“Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”* David then has a moment of sobriety, so to speak in the midst of the corruption; he has a conviction of sin. It’s like he is prophesying to himself when he quotes Philippians 1:21; *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”*

As followers of Christ, let’s allow the Holy Spirit to examine our hearts to see what we need to change or repent of. John 16:8-11 says; *“But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”*