Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] "Trust Not in Deceptive Words:" The Prophets and Worship
[Use] August 27, 2011

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," 1963.

The prophetic voice of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rings with a power that has shaped the laws of a nation. This weekend marks the official unveiling of a new memorial dedicated to Dr. King.

“A new memorial dedicated to slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is getting a sneak peak in Washington, D.C., before its official unveiling this weekend. It shows King emerging from a rock, powerful and pensive, echoing a line from his most famous speech. That line—"Out of the mountain of despair, a stone of hope"—comes from his "I Have a Dream" speech.

“The $120-million tribute has been in the works for more than a decade. Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin's overall concept for the sculpture also echoes that line from the "I have a dream" speech as well. Visitors must walk through the "Mountain of Despair" before they get to the 30-foot "Stone of Hope" and King's visage. Nearby granite walls are carved with King's eloquent words, and the plaza is dotted with cherry trees. The unveiling comes amid debate about building more memorials along the National Mall, with some saying enough is enough. The King Memorial is the only one on the mall that doesn't honor a president or commemorate a war."

As we reflect on the prophetic voices in this week's Sabbath school, voices which remind us that true worship must go deeper than words; let's think about some of the famous lines from a man who pushed us to think beyond rhetoric.

The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Strength to Love," 1963.

Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?,” 1967.

As Dr. King spoke “from the mountain”, so the voice of Micah repeats God’s own call: "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, And let the hills hear your voice … For the Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel" (Micah 6:1, 2).

And what was God’s complaint about? Worship.

~cr
Dear Contemporary Comments Recipient:

Thanks to so many of you who responded to our note several weeks ago and started joining us on Facebook. It's our new way to deliver Contemporary Comments to you and other FREE resources to enhance your ministries at church and your own spiritual journey.

There are many more of you that saw the note and then got busy doing something else and failed to sign up for Ministry Edge our new Facebook application.

So in just a second, please click on this [link](#) and follow the process Facebook guides you through to access our application. By the way, despite Facebook's warning, we DO NOT access any of your personal information!

If you have any challenges accessing and bookmarking our application, here is a short video to walk you through it.

In addition, you can “Join” our Creative Ministry Facebook group at this [link](#). We promise, we won't overload you with useless content!

BTW, when you sign up with MinistryEdge, you'll stop getting this weekly e-mail.

Thanks so much,

Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry
www.creativeministry.org
O: 800.272.4664