

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BY Atty. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior..." (1 Timothy 2:1-4, the Holy Bible).

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EDSA REVOLUTION AGAINST GOD'S TEACHINGS: To those who profess to believe in God and are preparing to celebrate the 30th year of the first ever EDSA People Power Revolution of 1986, I wish they would try to read the Bible in its 1 Samuel 8 in the midst of their preparations, and see what God's directives are in relation to rulers and leaders who are corrupt and incompetent.

I am sure many people who claim to be Christians would be shocked to find out that the Bible actually abhors citizens who rise up against their leaders and officials even if these leaders and officials are considered corrupt and incompetent. From 1 Samuel 8, it is clear that God does not want rebellion of any kind against any leader, and that any rebellion such as the EDSA People Power Revolution is against God's teachings.

The same thought permeates the New Testament of the same Bible—particularly in its Romans 13:1-2, Titus 3:1-2, 1 Peter 2:13, and Hebrews 13:17. This is perhaps the reason why 30 years after EDSA, no real beneficial change has come upon our country and our people, and that we remain to be as backward as ever, if not more backward that we were before.

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SAMUEL AND HIS SONS: THE STORY OF DISHONEST, PERVERTED LEADERS: The Bible, in its 1 Samuel 8, tells of the story of two sons of the prophet Samuel, Joel and Abijah, whom he made judges over the Israelites in Beer Sheba. But Joel and Abijah did not follow Samuel's righteous ways. Instead, they made money dishonestly, accepted bribes, and perverted justice, just like what our present day Filipino politicians have been doing.

Because of this, the people complained against Samuel's sons. The people said they wanted Samuel to appoint a king that would rule over them—totally forgetting that their real ruler is God Himself. This displeased Samuel, obviously because he knew that only God should be the King of all the people.

But then, because of the strong clamor from the Israelites, Samuel talked to God about the people wanting a king over. Clearly because God Himself was displeased about this desire of the Israelites for a king, God told Samuel to appoint a king over the people, even if this new king would be more ruthless and corrupt than his sons.

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PEOPLE FIGHTING LEADERS SUFFER: The clear lesson in this is that, no matter how bad a leader or an official maybe, it was God who installed him, for His own divine purpose. The people must therefore subject themselves to the authority of that leader or official even if they detest him—or her. They must not fight this corrupt or ruthless or incompetent leader, because it is God Himself whom the people would be fighting against.

And if the people would be fighting their leader or official, and even oust him from his position, God's wrath and curses would be upon the people and their nation, making their lives filled with suffering, poverty, and dissension, exactly in the manner that God's curses are now being heaped without let up upon Filipinos everywhere they may be.

What then must we do if we are forbidden by the Bible to fight against our rulers and our leaders? We must instead pray for them, so that God may touch them and cause them to change, or, perhaps, God will be prompted to lift His mighty hand and strike down the erring

leaders.

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