

Good News By Vic Dove

Taking Promises Seriously

“But what went ye out to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.”
Matthew 11:8

Great scientists often risk their health to make important discoveries. Great medical researchers risk exposure to deadly disease to save thousands of lives. Great artists and musicians sacrifice their social life to practice and perfect their craft. Great athletes constantly train their bodies, denying themselves pleasures most people take for granted. The easy way is never the way of success.

That was true to John the Baptist. Jesus questioned a crowd who had followed John, “But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ palaces!” (Matthew

11:8). His question reveals an important characteristic of John’s: his self-denial.

John’s life could never be described as easy. He wore “a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey” (Matthew 3:4). He was God’s messenger, but he didn’t live, dress, or talk like the other religious leaders of the day. John’s garment was practical and durable, certainly not comfortable or fashionable. In that sense he lived like Elijah (II Kings 1:8).

John’s very dress, food, and lifestyle were a stern rebuke to the self-satisfied and self-indulgent religious leaders of Israel—the scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests. Both physically and symbolically he separated himself from the hypocritical and corrupt religious and political systems. He was so consumed by God’s calling he was not attracted to the world’s enticements. His devotion to ministry completely superseded any personal interests and comforts.

John’s self-denial was also a rebuke to those people who longed for their leaders’ comforts although they couldn’t indulge in their leader’s privileges...But his lifestyle was a dramatic reminder that worldly lusts and pleasures prevent people from following God’s will completely and humbly.

As predicted before his birth, John had taken a life-long vow. The angel announced to Zacharias that John “will be great in the sight of the Lord: and he will drink no wine or liquor” (Luke 1:15). Along with abstaining from strong drink, the vow also involved never cutting one’s hair or touching anything that was ceremonially unclean. Many Jews would take a Nazirite vow for a few months or years. But only Samson (Judges 13:7, 16:17), Samuel (I Samuel 1:11), and John the Baptist took the vow for life. John’s life-long, voluntary self-denial was the ultimate act of devotion to God and is a great example for us to follow. Shoulder to Shoulder,
Bro. Vic

CCSO Arrests Michigan Man on Felony Warrants from Two States

By Carol A. Gasser Moore

CRISP COUNTY, Georgia – The Crisp County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) has announced that their agency successfully arrested Milo Yarborough (48), who was wanted by two states. Yarborough was stopped on Wednesday, February 14th about 8:30 p.m. in Crisp County. He was caught with drugs during a routine traffic stop.

CCSO states that Yarborough was stopped by a Crisp County Deputy near I-75 at mile marker 92. Yarborough was driving a black BMW. The CCSO deputy identified the BMW as matching the description of a reckless driver. Yarborough was also failing to stay in his lane.

Once stopped, the CCSO deputy began checking on the BMW’s driver’s license, when he learned that the man had arrest warrants issued by both the states of Maryland and Minnesota.

Milo Yarborough’s has been a resident of Royal Oak, Michigan. When Yarborough

was requested to show the officer his Michigan vehicle’s registration and residence verification, Milo directed the officer to the trunk of his car.

When Yarborough opened the BMW’s trunk, the CCSO deputy smelled a strong scent of marijuana. In addition, the officer located four bags of a white substance thought to be fentanyl, a package containing what the officer suspected was marijuana, a plastic container of pills, several phones and a tablet.

CCSO states that a test of the white substance proved the substance was positive for fentanyl.

The Crisp County Sheriff’s Office has arrested Milo Yarborough. In Georgia, Yarborough has been charged with:

- Trafficking fentanyl
- Possession of marijuana
- Possession with intent to distribute MDMA

Is a public official working for the citizens when...?

- official doesn’t update government’s website and keep current
- official commonly uses derogatory ‘pet’ names for anyone who does not hold identical views or anyone perceived as questioning or challenging
- official limits information available on a government’s website
- official offers solution which isn’t a full solution, just to appear ‘helpful’
- official tells staff to ignore Open Records requests instead of responding to them, hoping that the person will not pursue the request
- official doesn’t look for ways to be transparent, particularly with online information, limiting citizens right to know
- official calls citizen by name and labels a liar during public meeting?
- official tells citizens to take care of matters themselves, instead of enforcing ordinances?
- official creates community budget and minimizes board/council or citizens their right to know in advance and give input?
- official changes meetings to accommodate employee creating attendance problems for board/council and citizens.
- official constructs narrative for citizen by saying official held public meetings about which board/council never were informed.
- official pits people against each other to make one feel right and the other one wrong.
- official controls all the decision-making about everything including the responsibilities of a board/council.
- official claims truth is what’s being said at the moment, instead of information in accordance with fact or reality
- official tells citizens to follow the law, but privately doesn’t do it him/herself.