

We are Not Violent

The Islamic community was enraged over Pope Benedict XVI's quote concerning Mohammed, "*Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached*". This statement was quoted from a text from the 14th century by the Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus. The irony is that violence followed the remarks about the violence of Islam. The Palestinian Prime Minister, who heads up Hamas, a terrorist organization, was upset at the remarks. In Basra, Iraq, an al Qaeda group vowed a war against the "worshippers of the cross". In Somalia a Catholic nun was gunned down by what many believed to be a response to the Pope's remarks. A statement issued over the Internet by the Mujahideen Shura Council, a group led by Iraq's branch of al Qaeda, "We shall break the cross and spill the wine. ... God will (help) Muslims to conquer Rome. ... God enable us to slit their throats, and make their money and descendants the bounty of the Mujahideen,".

The Pope has since made an attempt to apologize for offending the Muslims. This is very strange indeed. The Pope is recognized by Catholicism as a successor to Peter and an equal to Jesus Christ. Can you imagine Jesus, Peter or any of the apostles apologizing for the content of their speeches. "*Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?*" (Matthew 23:33). The Pharisees were often on the receiving end of Jesus' rebuke. "Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees" (Matthew 16:6). "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves" (Matthew 23:13-15). On one occasion Jesus was told that He had offended the Pharisees, He responded by saying, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:13,14). I cannot imagine Peter issuing an apology after he preached on Pentecost, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

There is an old saying, "If you look like a duck, and waddle like a duck, and quack like a duck, pardon me if I call you a duck!"

Bill Dedmon – September 24, 2006
