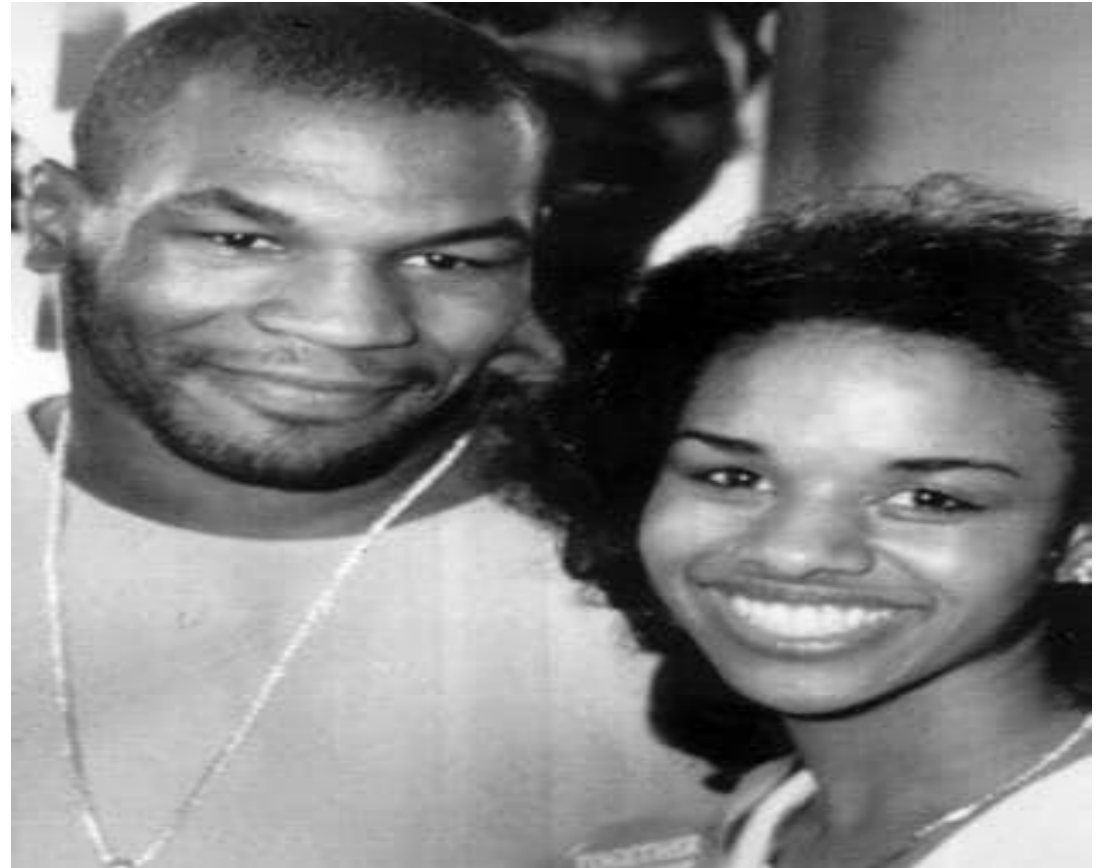


TAKE COVER
Proverbs 22:1-3

Woodland Park Church of Christ

10 February 2019



- Recent news re: Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax's woes took me back to the Mike Tyson/Desiree Washington saga and prompted a teachable moment.
- Both situations involve allegations of sexual misconduct – but parties involved were the only witnesses.
- Many have weighed in on the debate on who is right, to be blamed, or has more credibility.
- Irrespective of how you come out on the debate or question, there is a clear message.
- Foreseeing hardship and being proactive can save us a lot grief.
- Being alone in private settings can lead to harm on both sides.

Solomon advises that the prudent and discerning foresees danger (evil) and takes the necessary precaution.

Sage advice from the “old folk” → “Unless you are pulling the third shift on a real job, nothing good happens after midnight.”

Imagine the scores of people who have lost their lives “hanging out” after midnight.

Think about scores of others who have experienced extreme difficulty and calamity after not foreseeing and adequately balancing likely danger.

Vishnu Viswanath and Meenakshi Moorthy



NOAH'S ACCOUNT

God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood . . . And behold, I am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

Genesis 6:13-14, 17-18

Noah was 600 years old. It was the 17th day of the second month of the year. On that day all of the springs at the bottom of the oceans burst open. God opened the windows of the sky. Rain fell on the earth for 40 days and 40 nights. On that same day Noah entered the ark together with his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth. Noah's wife and the wives of his three sons also entered it.

Genesis 9:11-13

Noah and his Family were able to avoid the fate that befell the earth because Noah **TOOK COVER!**

- But, Solomon failed to take cover; it had far-reaching ramifications
 - His myriad love affairs with the very people God told him to stay away from -- (Egyptian(s), Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, Hittites). **I Kings 11:1-4**

A Couple of Scriptures to Help Us “Foresee” Danger

- *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked [He will not allow Himself to be ridiculed, nor treated with contempt nor allow His precepts to be scornfully set aside]; for whatever a man sows, this and this only is what he will reap.*
Galatians 6:7 AMP

- *Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*
I Corinthians 15:33

FORESEEING & AVOIDING DANGER REQUIRES . . .

- **Vision**

- Seeing beyond the present moment
- Careful deliberation before making decisions

- **Strength**

- Overcome temptations and urges; avoid getting trapped in the moment.

- **Courage**

- Bear up in face of opposition(s).

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17**)

Believe the gospel (**Acts 8:37,15:7; Hebrews 11:6**)

Repent of sins (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess Christ (**Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10**)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (**Acts 2:38**).

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**I John 1:8-9**); or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**).