

The Prayer For Today

From The Upper Room

Bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. (Luke 15:23-24)

Prayer: Our Father, in humbleness we come confessing our sins and looking to Thee for forgiveness. Restore in us the joy of Thy salvation, and help us that we may no more cut ourselves off from Thee. Grant our petitions, we beseech Thee through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Trouble In Atlanta

(From The Greensboro Watchman)

We are sad over the racial outbreak in Atlanta, but we are hiding our feelings very nicely, thank you. We are sad because a riot such as this should never happen south of Mason and Dixon's Line. It was a vicious attack on the entire white community when the mayor, pleading for peace, was dragged from the top of an automobile with shouts of "Down with the white bastard." It is to be remembered that this same mayor of Atlanta is generally recognized as a moderate if not an integrationist, and he is the man who is supposed to be telling the rest of us how to behave.

In spite of our laments, we are thus happy to add that if it had to happen in the South, we are glad that it happened in Atlanta. Atlanta has been breaking itself at the seams of late, as the integrationist capital of the South, boasting about how it could handle its racial problems when no one else could do it. Those who had any doubts about this Atlanta buncombe had only to peel back a thin veneer of advertising, and where the whites have refused to do this, the Negroes by their latest riot have done it for them. "Black power" is just as destructive in Atlanta as it is in St. Augustine or Birmingham.

If the liberal Atlanta press would just concern itself with the truth, it would reveal that what now happens in Atlanta is quite as bad, and perhaps a bit more vicious, than what happened in Selma last year. The chief difference is that in Atlanta, a lot of local police and local people got involved in the picture, while in Selma, the local whites stayed wonderfully out of the troubles, and let the state handle the job. The limited use of tear gas on a public highway which the Negro demonstrators refused to leave was the worst thing that happened in Selma during that riot. On the other hand, in Atlanta the local police routed the Negroes in a militant assault, led by their own mayor, by invading their private homes with tear gas and other weapons.

We point to Atlanta now as living truth that the liberals and the militants of the North have only the vaguest idea of the truth. They look upon the people of the South and especially those of Alabama, as some strange creatures who do not know how to behave. They refuse to accept the one irrevocable fact, and that is that the current disruption between the races is not confined to geography, and that when the same challenges are tossed in New England, the reactions are identical with those when these challenges are tossed in Alabama. The principal difference is that down here we have lived with the crisis for generations, and we know the truth where the North binds itself to it. We know from experience; the North suffers from its total ignorance, and Atlanta is merely a part of the North at the moment.

Hazards For The Trustful