

Lesson Eleven

Iwanto B. Dictator

LESSON IDEA

Some principles can be imparted more effectively by a parable than by the mere recitation of facts. Tonight's lesson portrays, with a parable, the rise of a collectivist regime.

VISUAL AID

None recommended for this lesson.

ONCE UPON A TIME there lived a very ambitious and brilliant young man who decided that he was uniquely qualified to solve the world's problems, if only the world would do as he demanded. "The great evil," he told all who would listen, "is that people are not treated equally. Some have more property than they need, while most have very little. Many do not have enough to meet their basic needs."

Continuing, he explained: "This is why wars are fought and crimes are committed; people want more property. The private ownership of property is the culprit that is causing so much misery in the world. The rich never have enough property to satisfy their ambitions, while the poor are constantly struggling for enough to barely survive. If I were in command, that would all change."

Many in his audiences were impressed by his speeches. They asked for more details. "First of all," he replied, "I would make men equal by confiscating all property in the name of the State. Then I would see that it was redistributed so that every person had an equal share. Once the State owns all land, industry, and means of transportation and communication, we can assure that everyone receives what they need and that no one has more than anyone else. Once men become accustomed to such equal sharing, their greed will subside. Since there will be no rich or poor, envy and hatred will disappear."

Soon this young man, Iwanto B. Dictator, attracted a sizable following. Many students concluded that his goals were noble and his ideas exciting. They agreed to support him, since they sincerely wanted to help the less fortunate. Others joined his cause for less noble reasons.

What do you think their motives were? [Many were attracted by the prospect of acquiring someone else's property.]

IWANTO B. DICTATOR was smart enough to realize that he would need the support of wise and shrewd politicians to achieve his objectives. He would also need the backing of journalists and other opinion molders to generate additional support for his agenda. And he knew that it would take time; that his goals would have to be achieved with patient gradualism, step by step.

His followers increased, and he was eventually elected to his country's parliament. Later, he became an assistant to a vice premier. And later still, working with increasing skill and influence, his supporters succeeded in having him elected premier.

Once in control of the government, the army, and the police (and with the media, schools, and many churches infiltrated by his fellow conspirators), he began moving more rapidly to live up to his name. He began implementing his program of redistribution and reeducation.

But he still faced opposition, because some of his stubborn subjects refused to go along with his "noble" goals. They were unwilling to surrender their farms, factories, and businesses. Their "unreasonable" attitude posed a serious problem for Iwanto B. Dictator's regime, which he decided to solve as most despots do. What do you think he did? [Ask each family member to answer.]

He began to murder and imprison his opponents, and during the purge he remained philosophical. "This is part of the price that must be paid for the wonderful new world order that I will eventually establish," he said. "After all, you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs." When someone asked when the new day of peace and plenty would be ushered in, he replied, "As soon as the opposition dissipates and everyone has been properly reeducated."

Crushing opposition, and reeducating people to "think right," meant that a huge additional

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