



# Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Where's Rodney King when you need him? It was May 1, 1992 - after two days of riots sparked by his videotaped beating by officers of the LAPD and the acquittal of the officers involved - that he uttered his now-famous appeal: *"Can we all get along?"*

Last week, President Bush addressed Israel's Knesset, and said that *"some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along..."* That comment was taken personally by one of the presidential candidates in the other party, and all of their national guns have been blazing at the Prez for him "politicizing" shamelessly, and in an international setting besides.

For the last year, the same candidate has been stumping against *"the failed policies of this administration."* That kind of public carping isn't challenged when it is offered with the backdrop of public opinion polls that report that George W. Bush is *"the most unpopular president in modern American history."* If popularity is the measure, he's a bust. How do you calculate success in the role of Commander in Chief? What is on your performance review?

Here's what he agreed to do: *"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the*



*Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."* I wonder how many of the people polled for the popularity scale could cite one sentence of said document? If a game show offered the grand prize to the person who could state the number of Articles (7), and the number of Amendments (27), would anyone go home with the new car? Is the President supposed to be *popular*, or to be a *preserver, protector and defender*?

Leadership - for too many people - remains a confused mystery. Under a recent American president, "popular opinion" became the compass for his executive direction. Find out where people are going... then run to the front of the pack and position oneself at the point. Is that leadership?

Jesus spent three years mixing with the public. His observation: *"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them,*

*because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'* "(Matthew 9:36-38)

He saw that the people were more pitiful than purposeful. They needed leadership, because they were like shepherdless sheep. "Ask the Lord... to send out workers..." Harassed and helpless people are in need of good leadership. Leadership is work. The best leadership - leaders who are there to serve, not to be served - comes from people sent by God into the environment of need.

If you're out to be popular, as a leader, you put a wet finger to the wind... find out where popular opinion is blowing, and catch the wind. If you're out to be purposeful, you put your shoulder to the plow... and create the wind. Introduce vision. Create strategy. Motivate followership. Do the work of leadership. *Has God sent any workers - leaders - out to serve harassed and helpless Americans?*

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