

In the midst of growing injustice there's a temptation to fight it in our own wisdom and strength



16So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! 17Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. 18Truly, You put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. 19In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. 20When You arise, O YHWH, You will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning. Psalm 73:16-20

Fighting Against Injustice

Over the last few months specifically I have been conscious of a significant and escalating breakdown of righteousness and justice in our nation and around the world. I find myself thinking the following:

- These things are not right!!
- Where are the righteous leaders and rulings?

- Does it really matter to do the right thing in light of so many of the wicked prevailing and even prospering?
- Why are the masses so gullible and where are those who will stand for God's ways?
- Why is the wrong promoted and common sense and righteousness silenced?
- Who can I trust and where can I go for information that's true?

If I meditate on these things without asking the LORD's perspective, then I am prone to despondency and anger with a resultant desire to haphazardly lash out against the multitude of wrongs and evil people around me. And when I do go it on my own, I often feel like the fabled adventurer Don Quixote wildly swinging my sword against windmills and thinking them to be significant foes. Without fighting God's way, I am resigned to a harrowing frustration and ineffectiveness at bringing about any significant or lasting justice.

I think there are a couple of things that are helpful to consider.

1. Macro (big picture) justice will not come until Yeshua returns. This is important to understand or we will be prone to despondency and will want to quit. On the macro level things will get much worse before He returns. We as His followers will be ultimately hated, persecuted, betrayed, and will suffer for our identification with Him. Positively there will be an increase of His Spirit saving and drawing others to Him, but the subsequent call will be to take up our cross, lay down our lives, and follow Him. We are invited to stand with Yeshua and His people and do the right thing not because we will necessarily be effective at changing the tide, but because it is the right thing to do. Only when Yeshua returns, will the macro-wrong be made right and those of us who remained faithful will be rewarded. We will gain new (and a correct) perspective on that final, coming Day.

2. Micro (smaller scale) justice will gain some "victories" as we look to make a difference in our spheres of influence. But, we will most effectively gain these victories not by overcoming the wicked by force or political maneuverings, but by walking out the Sermon on the Mount (SotM) lifestyle (Matthew 5-7) with a

spirit of meekness and humility and loving our adversaries deeply from our heart...even as we are called to oppose them.

One of my problems is that I'm just not naturally very meek or humble...much less consistently loving my enemies from my heart. These (and the other SotM attributes) can't be developed quickly or on the fly. To grow in these traits, I have to consistently and lingeringly spend time with Him acknowledging my poverty of spirit and continuing to mourn before Him for the needed breakthroughs in my life and in the lives of those around me. As we consistently and prayerfully read through His word we will realize afresh that we can't walk this walk of faith without His help. Only as we regularly come to Him will we be able to be strengthened to walk as we should.

3. We are to be God-directed. We are to ask Him to lead us into the places He wants us to make a difference. Part of the way this works is that we look to see where He is already working and then join Him in that area (John 5:19). The challenging aspect is that when we follow YHWH, often things get harder. In the Scriptures and in real life, often times His most-favorites initially suffer more than others. But He honors and validates them (and us) in the end as they remain faithful and overcome in the midst of adversity.

So dear saint in closing, let's do fight for justice but let's be circumspect to do so God's way and with His understanding. Let's fix our focus on Yeshua and the coming Day with the revelation that lasting, comprehensive justice is coming...but won't be fully realized until we see Him coming in the clouds.