

Devotions Tuesday 10 March 2020 - Act Justly

Isiah 1:17

“If you learn to do right, seek justice.

Defend the oppressed.

Take up the cause of the fatherless;

plead the case of the widow.

To act justly also implies that we will do something when we see injustice being perpetrated. Throughout the Bible God calls on his people to speak out against injustice, to speak up on behalf of those whose voices are not heard and to take a stand against those who would pervert justice. After World War II Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran priest, after spending several years in a Nazi Concentration Camp said these apt words:

“First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Most people are quite vocal when injustice affects them. We will speak out when our freedoms are curtailed or our rights trampled but we are often silent when we see it happen to other people. May we as Christians and followers of a just God speak out against injustice whenever we see it. May we champion the cause of the oppressed, the widowed, the minority. May we speak out against xenophobia, not just when we are the foreigners in another land, but for those foreigners in our own country. May we speak out against violence against women and children, not just during the 16 days of Activism but whenever we hear and see it occur. May we speak out against governments who mistreat their citizens. May we speak out against people who violate the dignity of others based on race, gender, sexual orientation, age or any other criteria. May we make our voices heard whenever we see injustice being done whether or not it affects us personally or not.

We may not be able to champion all injustices all the time but we can make a commitment to pray for justice whenever we see it and we can commit to taking up at least one injustice and seeing what we can do to bring about change. As we do so may we never stop praying not only for the victims of injustice but also for the perpetrators.

Prayer