

Justice Prevails!

Joe Slater

The Lone Ranger – Perry Mason – Superman. When you watched those old black-and-white TV shows, you knew all along that by the time the credits rolled the bad guys would be defeated, the good guys would be vindicated, and justice would prevail. No matter how hopeless it looked, the Lone Ranger and Tonto would arrest the bandits, Perry Mason would prove his client innocent, and Superman would confound the crooks.

Real life doesn't quite match a thirty-minute drama, or even a sixty-minute one, does it? Innocent people get railroaded! Criminals remain free! Might makes right! Whatever shall we do about life's inequities?

First, make certain you aren't the perpetrator of evil. *"Let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters"* (1 Peter 4:15).

Second, when you suffer despite being innocent, take it patiently as a way to glorify God. That goes double if being a Christian is the cause of the abuse (1 Peter 4:16). Jesus suffered infinitely more than you ever will, and He was 100% innocent. You shouldn't expect to be treated better than He was.

Finally, rest assured that justice really will prevail in the final analysis. It will take longer than thirty or sixty minutes. In fact, it may not happen in your lifetime! But, as the old song says, "There's a great day coming by and by." We might prefer to see all the accounts settled now. Since God's wisdom eclipses ours, however, we will do well to *"run with endurance the race that is set before us"* (Hebrews 12:10).

Notice the Caring People

"Did not Moses give you the law, yet none of you keeps the law? Why do you seek to kill Me" (John 7:19).

We would like to think that we don't have an enemy in the world; but as Jesus came to teach and save the lost He encountered a host of enemies! The Jews were constantly searching for Him, wanting to kill Him; but He continued loving. He must have felt loneliness when even his brothers didn't believe in Him.

Seeing those who opposed Jesus makes us want to stand up for good anywhere we see it. Today, take time to notice anyone who is caring.

Recently I was struggling with my groceries. I felt the cart being guided by stronger hands and I looked up to see a friendly face. The takeout lady was happy to help me to the car. My next stop was the gas station. As I began to pump my gas a young lady ran to help me. The biggest surprise was when I pulled out into traffic; someone actually held back and allowed me to move into the proper lane. I silently said, "Thank You, Lord, for the spark of Your love in others."

Notice the caring people in this world and turn to help someone on your way.

--Jewell Clarkston (via *Power For Today*)

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CONSUMERISM

Consumerism has turned the church into a service provider. "I want good preaching!" "I want amazing worship!" "I want great kids' programs!" Would we go to church if it was just a bunch of rag-a-muffin Jesus followers gathered around a table trying to love God and neighbors?

--Dan White, Jr. (via Facebook)

Make the Most of Opportunities

America has been called the land of opportunity. Opportunity has great motivational potential. In the business world; when "opportunity knocks," the thrifty, successful businessman makes the most of it. Yet, in the spiritual realm, many opportunities come and go – often wasted or unnoticed. While human weakness is largely to blame, many of our unused opportunities are the result of our own complacency toward the lost. Here are some suggestions to help us make greater use of our opportunities:

First, we must pray for opportunities. God answers prayer. As we use the opportunities God has given, He will provide even greater opportunities (Matthew 25:29).

Second, we must look for opportunities. While God gives the opportunity, He is not going to speak from heaven, saying, "This is it! This is the opportunity you've been waiting for!" The unemployed cannot realistically expect to find a job without looking for one. In a similar way, we must search for opportunities. They will not just drop into our laps.

Finally, we must use the opportunity. Once the opportunity presents itself, we must be ready to act on it. Be prepared for the Master's service. Paul writes, *"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity"* (Colossians 4:5).

--Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR)

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Self-Help?

Self-help teaches that the problem is outside us and the solution comes from within. The Bible teaches that the problem comes from within and the solution is outside us.

--Granger Smith (via Facebook)