



Wednesday Prayer

10th Sunday after Pentecost – Justice

He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory. Matthew 12:20

Jeffrey Epstein is dead. This week the billionaire American financier, indicted on numerous charges for running an international child sex trafficking ring, was found dead in his jail cell by apparent suicide. His victims thought this was their last best hope of obtaining justice for his kidnapping, rape, and “sale” of possibly hundreds of underage girls. Now, his co-conspirators (some female) and other men named in the court proceedings are shouting for joy, believing Epstein’s death will give them a pass from a similar fate to his. His victims may try to bring civil charges, but it won’t be quite the same without the monster in the courtroom, facing his victims.

What is to be said of justice that never comes? Of peace of mind that is ripped from the survivors’ hands and hearts? Of a real sense of closure lost to the winds of fate? Our indwelling sense of right and wrong says offenders should be punished and victims protected. Deuteronomy 3:4 says *The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He.* His justice is compared to a plumb line, ever straight, never faltering (Isaiah 28:17).

There is no perversion of justice with the LORD our God (2 Chronicles 19:7). But human actions are never as “straight” and pure as God’s plumb line. Somewhere, in this broken world, survivors of trauma induced at the hands of others must come to grips with the fact that justice is not always assured, peace is not always promised. We are left to figure out what justice might look like, in the absence of perfect law, perfect courts, perfect circumstances. As a survivor of sexual violence never brought to justice, I have learned a hard lesson, but a good one: sometimes justice is just knowing that God believes us, feels our pain, collects our tears in a bottle, and tells us, “Keep going, my child, you are precious in my sight and for that reason alone, you must keep going.”

God of Justice, hold close to you those who never see justice in this world. Help them know your justice prevails in the end. Amen.

Written by Meg Blaine Corrigan, Christian author, blogger, counselor, and sexual assault survivor. While it is early to say how this ongoing case will move forward, it’s important to hear the voices of survivors and share a current response of justice taken away with this act. Find more of Meg’s works at www.megcorrigan.com.