GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU

"Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you" (Civilla D. Martin).

KEY POINTS

- Injustice is not a new phenomenon. From the beginning of recorded time, we have seen the devastating effects of man against man.
- This has even gone to the point of a person taking that which is most precious from another – their life, as in the case of Cain killing Abel (Genesis 4).
- For example, 1 Kings 21 records the story of Naboth, a man who was killed by Jezebel through the false witness of evil men — just so her husband could steal Naboth's vineyard, which he greatly coveted.
- What do you do when you find yourself in a situation of injustice, abuse, persecution or exploitation?
- Some of you know that these are not just bad things happening to good people in some theoretical sense. This is the reality of your life.
- You may be like David, hounded by a jealous boss, or Uriah, whose marriage and life were destroyed through the predatory lust of a powerful king.
- These types of situations drive us to seek for real, true, uncorrupted justice in our lives; beyond human institutions, systems, governments and even churches, all of which are subject to the failings of humanity.
- Leaving home to follow an invisible God who had made incredible promises to him, Abraham faced a crisis as he contemplated the fate of his nephew Lot, and instinctively asked a question that was really a statement of his understanding and belief: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"
- Yes, the Judge of all the earth will and does deal justly! God will take care of you.
- As God gave Moses various laws to transmit to the people in Exodus 22:21-24, He also made it clear that He observes the things going on in our world – the things people say and do.
- Wrongs will be righted, sin will be punished, the righteous will prevail and God's people will be vindicated.
- The blood of the martyrs will be avenged. Fraudulent, unlawful dealings will be redressed. Abusers will be brought to justice and unfair dealings will be recompensed. God will take care of His people!
- What should our response be to this word from the Lord?
  - Pray for the strength to endure hardships.
  - Pray for the love of God to be demonstrated in our lives, in spite of what others have done to us.
  - Pray for the mind of Christ to be formed in us so we will think, act and respond as He did while He underwent severe injustice, false witnesses and torture.
- If you find yourself in the role of the oppressor or abuser, repent and beseech God for His forgiveness. Cease from evil and follow the path of Christ: the path of love, the path of righteousness, the path of compassion, the path of generosity, the path of self-giving. All of us need to remember: "Be not dismayed whate'er betide – God will take care of you."
- God called for the Israelites to deal justly with these people in light of the fact they had also suffered the sting of unwarranted injustice.
- "If he does cry out to Me," God says, "I will surely hear his cry; and My anger will be kindled, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless" (Exodus 22:23-24).
- This is a raw expression of God's heart for justice for those who are "going through" suffering at some time or the other – what a source of great comfort!
- When it's all said and done, even if we die under the oppression we're enduring, justice will prevail. God will take care of us!
- Therefore, we live life with the realization that it does not all end at the grave. A day of reckoning awaits every one of us, as Paul wrote to the Corinthians:
  For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10 NASB).
- The God we serve is just and righteous. He cannot be bought, badgered or blackmailed. He is totally reliable and we can safely trust He will not allow evil to go unpunished.

KEY SCRIPTURES:
Genesis 18:25; Exodus 22:21-24; Isaiah 25:4a; Luke 18:1-8; Romans 12:9-21, 14:10-13; 1 Corinthians 6:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:10

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Before your relationship in Christ, what was your usual, immediate response to being wronged by someone? What is your reaction now when you face a similar situation?
2. Share a testimony of faith and trust in God when He fought and won a battle for you in a situation you could clearly not handle on your own strength.
3. Throughout the week, pray for God to show His strength and power in a particular situation you are dealing with (if applicable). Give God thanks for His strength and praise Him in advance.

Prayer Time
Lord, fill me with Your peace in times of anxiety, despair and troubling times. Strengthen my heart, Lord, as I forever cling onto Your promises.

Start-up: Are you a calm / angry driver? What is that one thing more than all others, that someone on the road does to make you upset?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✔ (Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline