DWELLING IN THE WORD:

The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ¹ He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ² In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ ³ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁴ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁵ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁶ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁷ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Questions

1. Where did you stop when the reading was read the second time?
2. What word or phrase caught your attention? Why?
3. Is the Spirit “nudging” you in this passage? How?

Reclaiming Jesus

A new interfaith and ecumenical movement, Reclaiming Jesus is a call presented by over 20 major faith leaders from throughout the United States, calling for a strengthening and visibility of our identity as followers of Christ before all else, and an end to the coopting and commandeering of faith and scripture for political gain. Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry is a co-signer of Reclaiming Jesus’s first publication.

From A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis:

“Our urgent need, in a time of moral and political crisis, is to recover the power of confessing our faith. Lament, repent, and then repair. If Jesus is Lord, there is always space for grace. We believe it is time to speak and to act in faith and conscience, not because of politics, but because we are disciples of Jesus Christ—to whom be all authority, honor, and glory. It is time for a fresh confession of faith. Jesus is Lord. He is the light in our darkness. ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’ (John 8:12).”

For information, resources, next steps and more, please visit ReclaimingJesus.org.

The Poor People’s Campaign

The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is building on the Poor People’s Campaign initiated by Dr. King and movement leaders 50 years ago. The New Campaign is expanding on King’s “giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism,” to include ecological devastation, while maintaining the same goal of a “fusion movement,” seeking an end to systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation. More online: http://poorpeoplescampaign.org
The Fourth Mark of Mission:
To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

More Online: DioceseofNJ.org/MarksofMission

2018 Vital Questions

- What are some of the unjust structures or types of violence you, your community, or your congregation encounter regularly?

- By what actions, or in what ways, do you see these structures being transformed? In what ways is violence being challenged, and peace and reconciliation pursued in your community or congregation?

- In what ways can we come together to support one another, and collaborate in challenging violence, transforming injustice, and making peace?

- How do you feel God nudging you to act for transformative justice, against violence, or for reconciliation and peace? What resources do you need in this work? What resources and gifts can you offer?