



Grain

What's the point of having a voice if you're going to be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?

—Angie Thomas

Submitted by Vernita Kennan, Roseville, MN

Field

18Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” Luke 18:1-5

Thoughts

The parable from Luke offers wisdom about nagging for justice and being centered in God:

- Pray and don't give up on it.
- There is connection between persistence in prayer and advocating for justice.
- Whatever your status in society, your voice matters.
- Don't give up on using your voice. Be a nag for justice.
- When you put yourself out there risking embarrassment, you're not alone in history. Remember the widow with an already vulnerable status risked becoming more vulnerable.
- Celebrate positive changes whether the key leaders involved have an actual change of heart or not. Your own faith and wellbeing are not dependent on another person's conversion.
- It can take a long time to experience justice.

We don't know the specifics of what the widow was nagging about, only that Jesus named it as justice. Sometimes the line between being persistent for positive change and unhealthily antagonizing can be thin. The definition of bullying actually includes that it is a repeated action. In our divided country, some election officials have felt threatened by people who nag about the last presidential election being stolen, even though election fraud has been proven to be very low in Wisconsin. Some are even calling for the end of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, a bipartisan commission. We need to be persistent in asking if our nagging based on facts, a passion for justice, or lies and contempt.

Our polarized society needs people who nag out of love and are willing to listen without giving up their voice. Pray always and do not lose heart. Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy