

DISCOURAGEMENT, NOT AN OPTION

Do not fret because of evildoers...Do not fret--it only causes harm (in Ps. 37:1,8).

When I taught math at a Christian college I started out about each class with a Truth Gem from the Bible. One I gave was, "Discouragement, not an option." Suppose I were to say to you to go to courthouse square at lunch time Monday and sing real loud the song Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Your response might be.....NOT AN OPTION! I am not sure that your being so set in not singing that song helps you much in life. I am sure that if you are set with far greater resolve than not singing that song, you are exceedingly set that **DISCOURAGEMENT, NOT AN OPTION!!!!!!**, then you are well on your way to **abiding** in the realm of overcoming.

When justice seems trampled or delayed I have found that unrelenting proclaiming justice in love prevails. This truth is somewhat hidden in Matthew 12:18-21. This passage has transformed my understanding of love and how to have victory when injustice seems so strong. The passage reads: 18: Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased. I will put My Spirit upon Him and He will **DECLARE JUSTICE TO THE GENTILES**. 19: He will not quarrel nor cry out, nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. 20: A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench, **TILL HE SENDS FORTH JUSTICE TO VICTORY**; 21: And in His name Gentiles will trust.

This passage speaks of Jesus. Jesus was unrelenting in **DECLARING JUSTICE**. And here is the way Jesus did it...in love. Verses 19 and the first part of 20 reveal that. The wicked will hypocritically speak out tolerance, diversity, and compassion. But let them not get their way... massive quarrelling, crying out in the streets, fit pitching, and stomping of the weak....not Jesus. Jesus was gentle, not hurting bruised reeds and compassionate to the weak, the trampled **BUT UNRELENTING IN DELARING JUSTICE, ABSOLUTELY NONSTOP**. Jesus knew of the nonovercomeable spiritual power of justice unrelentingly declared in love. The result was Jesus sent forth **JUSTICE TO VICTORY**.

A second witness to the overcoming spiritual power of being unrelenting in declaring justice in love is found in Luke 18:1-8. This parable told of a judge that did not fear God or respect man (applicable to some judges today). This widow kept it up saying, "Get justice for me

from my adversary." The judge admitted that he was the type of man he was, yet he was troubled by her continual coming and he did not want to be **wearied** by her! So he broke down and avenged her. So a major lesson is revealed here: there is overcoming spiritual power in being unrelenting in speaking justice (in love as seen in the first example).

Suppose someone did not know that discouragement is not an option and instead, they got discouraged and quit declaring justice (or kept it up from a heart of bitterness and not love). They would have walked away from overcoming spiritual power.

No matter how much it looks like wickedness is flourishing, you do not get discouraged because no matter how dark wickedness tries to loom over you, it cannot withstand the truth of Psalm 92:6-7: A senseless man does not know, nor does a fool understand this: when the wicked spring up like grass and when all the workers of iniquity flourish, it is that they may be destroyed forever.

Some might think this is a good place to stop....wrong! I am striking while the iron is hot with understanding of Matthew 12:18-21 mentioned earlier in this teaching. I absolutely had to know how Christian love could appeal to the valorous nature of Christian men. Matthew 12:18-21 unlocked that for me. The part that speaks of not quarrelling or crying out and not hurting a bruised reed is like the great love chapter 1 Corinthians 13. The brave courageous way to be is revealed to be this: Courageously keep declaring justice, but do it in love, until Jesus sends forth justice to victory. Now that is courage, valorous, brave: unrelenting declaring justice in love until victory. So...discouragement is not an option.