

April 26, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

LET IT ROLL DOWN

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

AMOS 5:24

Reflection

On Monday as the sun was setting, Passover began. What a perfect time to reflect on the virtue of justice, the beginning of the journey that led to the giving of the ten commandments and Torah at Mt. Sinai. Laying the ethical framework for both Judaism and Christianity, these ethical and spiritual guidelines cement our relationship with the Creator, and the virtue of justice is a key part of the embodiment of righteous living.

Perhaps one might naturally wander into the "halls of justice" with a more literal and contemporary interpretation within the context of legal systems. A

number of scripture passages instruct righteousness and equity in judgement and avoiding the influence of position or bribery. These are basic teachings that extend back to the beginning of the covenantal relationship between God and humankind.

Over time, interpretations of justice expanded beyond the courtroom to apply to broader society. From Judaism, the teaching of “tzedakah” (righteousness) captures the obligation to help others through acts of enablement and justice. Along with prayer and repentance, tzedakah weighs in on each person’s fate over the New Year and Yom Kippur. In the Christian tradition, certainly Matthew 25 illuminates the meaning of justice. We have also encountered the ideals of justice in the readings from Acts over the last several weeks in how the fledgling Christian community cared for the basic needs of each other.

What does it mean to act justly or to be a just person? Some qualities to consider: to do the right thing, toward God as well as each other; generosity of spirit as well as with resources; tolerance and balance in relationships, and actively helping others by any means. I have to imagine there are more attributes to add. What have you come up with?



Lady Justice
Photo by Katerin Bolovtsova

- How have you been extended justice by another?
 - When and how have you offered justice to someone?
 - In both instances, how did you feel following the experience, and how did God show up for you?
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For Prayer

My heart sings every time I hear the hymn, “All are Welcome” by Marty Haugen. It speaks to me of God’s love, justice, and community united by the sharing of a Sacred feast in the Eucharist. Maybe there’s a song that expresses to you God’s promise of justice through redemption and unity. The invitation: spend some time with the music that resonates for you, reflecting on the words as well as the music, and allowing your heart and spirit to be lifted by and toward God.

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