

The Question of the Week

“Jesus said: ‘Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night?’”

Luke 18: 6

As an adult, have you ever really begged someone to give you a particular thing that was in their possession? I mean, really be. Like, if your life, or the life of a loved one, depended on your being successful in obtaining what you asked? Did you find it an enjoyable situation to be in? I am not talking about the commonplace experience in life where we ask someone to help us out. We all have had that experience and we all do that with some regularity. I am speaking about begging. Begging like your life depended on it. Have you done that? Did you feel a sense of being diminished? Somehow demeaned?

I remember my sister Barbara who had a son with very special needs literally begging different doctors and hospitals for help for her son. She would go to bat for him, day in and day out. She managed his illness for over forty years. At great personal cost. But she never stopped begging for help for her son. Now reread the passage at the top of this reflection. “Will not God secure the rights of his chosen ones to those who call out to him day and night?” The key line is: day and night. Unceasing. We must never stop asking. Even begging. Day and night.

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. Yes. The Lord does hear. And the Lord responds. In the right time. In the right way. But we are asked to trust and asked to be patient. For at times the Lord looks like He arrives too late. That the Father isn't always where we need Him to be when we need Him to be there. The daughter of Jairus dies before Jesus gets there. But Jesus raises her to life. And Lazarus is in the tomb for four days. And Jesus calls him forth from the tomb and restores him to his sisters. Yes Jesus has the power even when it looks like it is too late. And then Jesus himself calls on the Father to take his cup away but in the end submits his will to that of his Father. And Jesus is crucified and dies a most painful death. BUT. Only to be raised on the third day. Never to die again. And to reign over all creation. The Lord has secured the rights of his beloved Son even when it looks like He did not, or looks like He didn't care. Despite appearances to the contrary can we still believe? That is the question of the week.