



We Are Called To Love

In recent days, we have been confronted by injustice as it exists among us today. Many people have been unable to keep silent. They have come out to express their pain, their anger, and call for change. There have been a few people who have taken advantage of the situation to cause trouble, but the vast majority of people on the streets have been protesting peacefully with their calls for justice and reform.

Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that:

The Christian ought always to be challenged by any protest against unfair treatment of the poor, for Christianity is itself such a protest, nowhere expressed more eloquently than in Jesus' words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (*Pilgrimage to Nonviolence*. by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

As part of this society, and especially as followers of Jesus, we are called to speak out on behalf of those who suffer abuse whatever its form, and stand with them. The need for dialog and understanding is clear, but so is the need for action. Changing hearts and minds is needed not just more talk, and certainly not more violence. Dr. King also reminded us that agape love, "a love in which the individual seeks not his own good, but the good of his neighbor (1 Cor. 10-24)" is what is needed. This is the love Jesus taught. Agape love "is the only cement that can hold this broken community together. When I am commanded to love, I am commanded to restore community, to resist injustice, to meet the needs of my brothers." (*Pilgrimage to Nonviolence*. by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- Those who are suffering under the load of **injustice & racism**.
- Communities and those who are in leadership positions who need to work together to find ways to **end injustice** and the things in our way of life that make injustice possible.
- Those who are **grieving the loss of loved ones to violence & injustice**
- **The police** as they reevaluate their training, examine their attitudes, & review their mission to serve & protect the people.
- Those **grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19**
- **Those put at risk of COVID-19**, especially those unable to take measures to protect themselves or others because they are in prison; they live or work where protective measures are not possible; they cannot afford needed supplies; they face ostracism for acting on their concern for their health or that of their family.
- **The other needs in the world**. Violence, hunger, natural disasters, & other needs have not gone away! Deadly tropical storm Amanda hit **El Salvador**; storms & fires have happened elsewhere this week. There is hunger in **Rwanda, India, Haiti & Nigeria**. The violence in **Nigeria** continues. All 4 countries are also dealing with COVID-19. (see Global Mission Prayer Guide June 8, 2020)



We Are Called To Love

In recent days, we have been confronted by injustice as it exists among us today. Many people have been unable to keep silent. They have come out to express their pain, their anger, and call for change. There have been a few people who have taken advantage of the situation to cause trouble, but the vast majority of people on the streets have been protesting peacefully with their calls for justice and reform.

Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that:

The Christian ought always to be challenged by any protest against unfair treatment of the poor, for Christianity is itself such a protest, nowhere expressed more eloquently than in Jesus' words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (*Pilgrimage to Nonviolence*. by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

As part of this society, and especially as followers of Jesus, we are called to speak out on behalf of those who suffer abuse whatever its form, and stand with them. The need for dialog and understanding is clear, but so is the need for action. Changing hearts and minds is needed not just more talk, and certainly not more violence. Dr. King also reminded us that agape love, "a love in which the individual seeks not his own good, but the good of his neighbor (1 Cor. 10-24)" is what is needed. This is the love Jesus taught. Agape love "is the only cement that can hold this broken community together. When I am commanded to love, I am commanded to restore community, to resist injustice, to meet the needs of my brothers." (*Pilgrimage to Nonviolence*. by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

This week, in your prayer time remember:

- Those who are suffering under the load of **injustice & racism**.
- Communities and those who are in leadership positions who need to work together to find ways to **end injustice** and the things in our way of life that make injustice possible.
- Those who are **grieving the loss of loved ones to violence & injustice**
- **The police** as they reevaluate their training, examine their attitudes, & review their mission to serve & protect the people.
- Those **grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19**
- **Those put at risk of COVID-19**, especially those unable to take measures to protect themselves or others because they are in prison; they live or work where protective measures are not possible; they cannot afford needed supplies; they face ostracism for acting on their concern for their health or that of their family.
- **The other needs in the world**. Violence, hunger, natural disasters, & other needs have not gone away! Deadly tropical storm Amanda hit **El Salvador**; storms & fires have happened elsewhere this week. There is hunger in **Rwanda, India, Haiti & Nigeria**. The violence in **Nigeria** continues. All 4 countries are also dealing with COVID-19. (see Global Mission Prayer Guide June 8, 2020)