



Wednesday Prayer

4th Sunday after Pentecost – Scattering Evildoers

It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, proclaiming your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night...Lord, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered...My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.

Psalm 92:1-2,9,11

As I read Psalm 92 in preparation for writing this week's Wednesday Prayer on youth sex trafficking, I picked verses 1 to 2, 9 and 11 because they best described how I feel about my own experience. I was raped at gunpoint 50 years ago this spring, and although I can vividly recall the trauma of that day and many days after, I can truly say that I "have seen the defeat of my adversaries, and I "have heard the rout of my wicked foes." In my case, the assailant was never found. I never got to identify him in a police lineup, never saw him arrested or convicted in a court of law. In fact, I fled to a completely different state because none of this happened, and I was terrified. But through God's supernatural, divine power, I have grown stronger and more resilient over the years. I am no longer the "victim" that I was the day I was assaulted. I have grown into a survivor, living in God's great, daily grace that gives me hope for new tomorrows. At age 77, I have more hope for my future than I have ever had in my life.

As a survivor, I feel a connection to every person who has had to or will have to suffer at the hands of another who uses sex to manipulate and control someone. At first, assault victims often have no hope, no belief that people are basically good and do not mean any harm. Trauma has a way of leveling people, no matter how resilient they might have been beforehand. As a survivor, it is my sacred duty to meet victim/survivors in a trauma informed fashion, and to offer them the same hope that I now have. I must tell them that the living God wants them to welcome his power to "heal all their diseases, redeem their lives from the pit, crown them with steadfast love and mercy" (Psalm 103:3-5 *paraphrased*). It will take time before any sexual assault survivor may feel the Living God in more tangible ways in their life. The Apostle Peter says we must "always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). Peter adds, "do this with gentleness and respect" (the essence of the trauma informed approach). And if all we are able to do is pray, we can hold victim/survivors in prayers of the hope of Christ that one day soon, all trafficking will end.

Lord, surely your enemies will perish; all evildoers will be scattered, and all oppression will end. Help us share Your hope to those who are victimized. Amen.

Written by Meg Corrigan, Christian author, speaker and survivor. Discover Meg's books, blog, and more at www.MegCorrigan.com.