

Coach House Church **BEACONS**

THE UNJUST JUDGE AND THE MOTOWN SINGERS

12TH FEBRUARY 2021

A sad piece of news I heard this week was that the singer Mary Wilson had passed away on Monday. Mary was the cofounder of a band called The Supremes together with Diana Ross and Florence Ballard back in the 60s. The band had 12 number one pop hits from 1964 to 1969 and during that period they were considered to be one of the biggest Motown vocal groups. They charted a total of 16 top 10 Pop singles and 19 top 10 R&B 45s, six of them chart toppers.

The girls met in Detroit, America, where they lived on the same housing estate and as teenagers they started singing together. Later they got an audition with Motown Records by literally pestering them until they agreed to listen to them. According to an interview with Mary Wilson, every day, they used to go and wait in the lobby of Motown Records from early in the morning till late in the afternoon. Their perseverance finally paid off and in 1961 the girls were signed by the label as The Supremes. It didn't take long after this for them to release their first record, and the rest, as they say, is history.

This impressed me as I listened to the evening news. What tenacity and perseverance from their part! They would not take no for an answer.. And this, during a time when black people in America were fighting for their civil rights! You will understand in a bit the point I'm trying to make.

In the bible we have an account of a similar character- determined , single minded, perseverant - in the person of a widow who was in search of justice. And unfortunately for her the person in the position of delivering that justice was not a very scrupulous man.

Let's read the account in Luke 18:

"In a town there was once a judge who didn't fear God or care about people. In that same town there was a widow who kept going to the judge and saying,

"Make sure that I get fair treatment in court." For a while the judge refused to do anything. Finally, he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care about people, I will help this widow because she keeps on bothering me. If I don't help her, she will wear me out."

🙄 Now both the example from the bible and the story of Mary Wilson show that the people in power only did what they had to do because they were being bothered and pestered by disadvantaged and, discriminated against, groups of people. The singers in our first examples were part of the black community in a time when they had no rights and no voice; and in the second example, the widow, was part of a group of people which the society at that time marginalised and ignored. If you were a widow in those days of the unjust judge, your life would have been quite miserable.

Well-connected, popular, rich, famous and beautiful people do not know what it means to be invisible or looked down at, as people, by nature, are shallow and selfish.

But when dealing with our Creator God, this criteria does not apply. God turned human wisdom on his head when He said "turn their other cheek" and "beauty comes from inside" 1 Peter 3:3-4 says :

"Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight."

If shallow and selfish people can be convinced into doing what is asked of them by determination, pressure and constant presence, a loving and just God who is interested in the wellbeing and happiness of his subjects would act even more promptly to the requests made, if indeed the one that makes the request is sincere and persistent.

I must be honest with you, I do get discouraged sometimes if the request I make of the Lord is not answered in what I believe to be a reasonable time. Please, take my confession and do not do the same. I had to ask for forgiveness as in all those circumstances when I give up asking, I was proved wrong. He answered my prayer and request even after I stopped asking for it, not in my time but in His, and not in the way I imagined it but in an even better way. The Lord will always look after your needs not wants. He knows better what those are.

Therefore, today, let's be more determined to be determined. Like the Motown singers, let's turn up every morning and bring our request to the Lord for he is faithful. He will give guidance to the one asking for it; he will open a door of opportunity, give you a job, open a friend's heart, heal sickness or emotional wounds and finally, make a way when there is no way.

Lord, help us to be persistent and determined to walk with you whatever may happen; help us to turn up in your presence every day ready to follow. In Jesus name I pray

Amen



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