**Breaking the Silence**

**Sermon notes: George F. Nicholas**

Luke 18:1-8 The Message

**18 1-3**Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, “There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: ‘My rights are being violated. Protect me!’

**4-5**“He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, ‘I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won’t quit badgering me, I’d better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I’m going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.’”

**6-8**Then the Master said, “Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won’t step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won’t he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?

**1.**      **The Power of your voice**

·         Before God moves, he calls on his people to be silent before him

**Zephaniah 1:7-9 (NIV)**

**7**Be silent before the Sovereign Lord,
     for the day of the Lord is near.
 The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
     he has consecrated those he has invited.

**8**“On the day of the Lord’s sacrifice
     I will punish the officials
     and the king’s sons
 and all those clad
     in foreign clothes.
 **9**On that day I will punish
     all who avoid stepping on the threshold,[[a](https://churchcenter.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=06a6950bb28e9d7f5363b751a&id=a3691a0c18&e=41ae271a21)]
who fill the temple of their gods
     with violence and deceit

·         The directive was to be silent in the presence of God

·         However, when we are in the presence of man and injustice

·         The people of God are to speak

**Exodus 3:7 (niv) 7 The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering**

·         The powerful always want to silence those who they are oppressing

·         God responded to the suffering of this people by helping Moses find his voice

**Exodus 6:10-11 (NIV) 10 Then the Lord said to Moses, 11 “Go, tell Pharaoh king of Egypt to let the Israelites go out of his country.**

·         Moses was destined to lead his people so they might find their voice

**Exodus 8:1 (NIV) ]Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me**

·         The children of Israel were enslaved and oppressed

·         They were silenced under the power of Pharaoh

·         They would be liberated through the power of their voices

·         There is power in breaking the silence

·         This is what Jesus is teaching us in our gospel lesson

·         Jesus is intentional of framing the widow and the one who finds and uses her voice

·         Her life would not be changed if she did not find and use her voice

·         Bible study called Interrupting Silence by Walter Brueggemann -Tuesday at 6:00

*“Silence and tacit consensus always, without fail, protect privilege. That is why the privileged are characteristically silencers.”
 ―****Walter Brueggemann,***[***Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out***](https://churchcenter.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=06a6950bb28e9d7f5363b751a&id=264665710b&e=41ae271a21)

·         When we find our voice, we can bring justice even in unjust systems

― Walter Brueggemann, Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out