



The Harvest

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Never Forget ... Never Again

*“Open your mouth on behalf
of those unable to speak,
for the justice of all who are destitute.
Open your mouth, judge righteously,
plead the cause of the poor
and needy.”
~ Proverbs 31:8-9 ~*

The Holocaust marks an ugly, horrifying moment in the history of the world. Approximately six million Jewish people were killed in this horrible event. The magnitude of the Holocaust must be recognized: six million people. Six million grandfathers, grandmothers, fathers, mothers, children, brothers, sisters. Each person had a whole life, hopes, dreams, and accomplishments. Sometimes, we get in the bad habit of viewing statistics as numbers rather than recognizing that this event is highly personal and affected the lives of countless people.

The Lord is a just God. He does not look kindly upon those who come against His chosen people, against the needy, against the fatherless, or against the widow.

*“Thus says Yahweh:
‘Execute justice and righteousness.
Rescue the one who is robbed
out of the hand of the oppressor. Do not
mistreat or do violence to the stranger,
the fatherless, or the widow.
Do not shed innocent blood in this place.’”
~ Jeremiah 22:3 ~*

There are a number of brave individuals who lived out the very heart of this verse. Perhaps one of the most famous people who practiced justice and righteousness during the Holocaust is Oskar Schindler. He saved 1,200 Jewish people by employing them at his factory and convincing officials to allow him to keep them employed when everyone in the nearby ghetto was murdered. There are many other people who are noted for hiding and sheltering God's people during the Holocaust.

In life we are faced with countless choices. How are we going to respond when someone is being attacked – verbally or physically? How are we going to stand up for those being oppressed? How are we going to come against anti-Semitism as it increases in frequency all around us?

The easy answer is to do nothing. There will always be people whose aim is to hurt others. There will always be people who don't like the nation of Israel because they are God's chosen people. Sitting passively idle, however, is an active choice. In doing so, we allow evil to occur. We allow God's people to be attacked while we do nothing. Our silence holds no righteousness, and we will give an account to the Lord, knowing that we allowed others to come against God's people that we were commanded to protect and bless.

