

Day 4 Devotion

Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; ... But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:14-15

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God? Micah 5:8

On February 8, 1968, the campus of South Carolina State College became a devastating scene of student demonstrations resulting in the death of three students, one a high school student sitting on the steps leading up to the campus. The nation has never reported this incident. The nation does know of the death of student demonstrators killed at Kent State University. Only once have I heard a brief news report of the loss of life at this black institution. My student Zachariah Dais wanted the nation, perhaps the world, to know that he had lost his best friend, Smitty, Henry Smith. His composition, "Goodbye, Smitty," submitted to Reader's Digest, received my approval despite Mr. Dais' excessive use of the term, "poignant," He dismissed my suggestion that he consider other descriptive terms. His response was that the event on campus was too shocking, too personal, too intense. His article would be submitted for publication as he had composed it.

The fact that students on both campuses lost innocent lives cries out for justice. The right to speak and participate in peaceful assembly, however, is not my focus for this Mediation. Listen to the voice of this student – "My best friend Smitty is dead. He was killed by South Carolina Highway Patrolmen who shot into the group of students on the campus. This poignant incident will affect my life until the day I die." An editor at Reader's Digest read the composition, considered it a very good human-interest story, and returned Mr. Dias' entry with a letter and a rejection slip. The rejection slip read, "Thanks, but sorry. For our reading audience, no one would believe this story."

Where is the justice?

Johnnie Sharpe Washington, Grant Chapel Presbyterian

Heavenly Father, Creator of us all, we thank you for the strength and the love to endure our vicissitudes and still love our brothers and sisters. Because we approach the cross soon, help us also to remember "to forgive."

Prompt: Recall an event that shook your soul to the core. Have you found a way to forgive?

Resource: Sonny Dubose and Cecil Williams, *Orangeburg 1968: A Place and Time Remembered* (2012). [Orangeburg 1968: A Place and Time Remembered \(Distributed for Cecil Williams Photography\): DuBose, Sonny, Williams, Cecil: 9780944514337: Amazon.com: Books](#)