

## Let judgment run down like water

Written by Timothy Houston  
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The world is an unjust place. The Trayvon Martin case is proof of that. He was a young man that was on his way home from the store doing nothing wrong. He was profiled, followed, and killed. His family, along with us as a people, went to the courts seeking justice, and we were denied. This is a hard pill for us to swallow because many of us hoped that we had moved beyond this. Some of us naively believed that the civil rights struggle of the sixties had brought us closer to a place of equality. But the Trayvon Martin case is yet another example to remind us of how far we have to go.

We all know that our legal system is flawed throughout the country and especially in the south. The Florida "stand your ground" law has its history in the Jim Crow laws of the south and are arbitrarily applied depending on race. Consider this, Marissa Alexander of Jacksonville, Florida, received a 20-years prison sentence last year for firing warning shots against her abusive husband whom she had already taken out a protective order. The judge rejected her defense under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law.

Here lies the contradiction. A Black woman's warning shot was given a 20 year sentence while Zimmerman's fatal shot that killed Trayvon Martin received nothing. This is the unfortunate biases that exist in this country today. I believe this type of prejudice is more grievous than black on black crime because this hatred has no merit. Black on black crime is a result of ignorance of self, poverty, overcrowding, and the lack of jobs. But the racial and legal biases that exist in this country are based solely on the color of a person's skin. The inner-city youth that survives black on black crime often falls victim to an unjust legal system. This is the greater tragedy. The young black American life is less valued simply because of the color of his or her skin.

There is a remedy for this injustice. We must look to a higher power than the United States court system. We cannot continue to seek justice in an unjust world. When we are denied justice in this world, we must look to God who is the creator and the final judge of all things. "Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good" (Psalms 37:1-3).

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Because God is aware of the situation, there no need for us to take matters into our own hands and respond with violence. "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord" (Roman 12:19). No sin goes unpunished, and no one truly gets away with any thing. In Gods court, justice delayed is not justice denied. Amos 4:24, God declares that He would let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. This is our faith. This is our hope.

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