The temperature is not the only thing blazing across our state and nation – since last I wrote there has been a heat wave of anger – an outcry from a community that has once again been victimized. The spark that lit this match was the cruel murder of George Floyd by a white officer of the Minneapolis law enforcement. With it all on video, people of all backgrounds have been unnerved and broken over how this man was treated. It was awful. But that spark, blown by the winds of media, quickly turned into an uncontrollable fire. Quite literally.

Whatever anger was rightly felt quickly became usurped by a rage unchecked. The call for justice has been lost in the clamor of unjust action. George Floyd was trampled on at his arrest, and now his memory and name have been trampled upon by careless reactions. I think we might rightly ask, “is justice really prevailing?”

I’m going to take you back in time to a moment not unlike the unlawful treatment of Mr. Floyd, only far worse. It was the day that the *only truly innocent* man was arrested, falsely accused, and grossly mistreated before being shamefully executed. Jesus, the King of Kings, on that day, stood before Pontius Pilate, a proud but puny ruler next to Him. When this governor asked His unknowing Superior, “*What have you done, that your own rulers have handed you over to me*?” Jesus responded:

“**My kingdom is not of this world**.” (John 18:36)

What does that mean – not of this world? Jesus did not say “My kingdom is not *in this world*” but “not *of this world*”. Jesus was not denying the existence of His kingdom on earth. Rather his wording indicates a definition by contrast of what His kingdom is about - it is *not* *like* the kingdoms of this world. It does not originate from man, nor does His kingdom operate by the principles of man. This world system, from then till today, is an evil world system fueled by pride and scarred by it too, being ultimately reflective of the invisible enemy who runs it: the prince of darkness himself (Eph. 2:2).

Jesus then explains,

“**If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this world**.”

In other words, if Jesus’ kingdom were anything like the world kingdoms, His servants would have planned and attempted a violent insurrection – overthrowing and killing to free Jesus.

What we see today is still a mark of the kingdoms of man. The unjust killing of George Floyd has been stained with the unjust reactions of looting, destroying, and hurting of other innocent people. Here is the sad reality: the people who responded in unjust ways belong to the same earthly kingdom as the man who unjustly killed Floyd. It is all a vicious cycle that stems from the same root. And the root of that root is the evil bent of man’s heart.

If ever there was a call for justice, if ever there was a day for insurrection - it was the day Jesus, the King, was arrested and taken away. But that wasn’t Jesus’ way. Instead we see the founder of God’s Kingdom lay down His life for all of our unjust deeds, which all of us have done. In so doing He satisfied God’s righteous anger against us - as the Scripture about His death foretold: “upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace” (Is 53:5).

What all of this past week’s events have confirmed is this: we are all unjust, and on our own we only contribute to the corruption, not correction of all that’s wrong in the world. Jesus demonstrated and purchased that there is forgiveness and peace for all of our injustices in His name. So let His kingdom break your vicious cycle, and see how He transforms you into a truly just person – that is, a person who stands up to evil without becoming a contributor in it.

For that to be real we all need citizenship into the kingdom not of this world. Good news is, the invitation is wide open to any who will humbly receive it. There is liberty and justice for all… in Christ.