******

***“But instead, one believer sues another—right in front of unbelievers! Even to have such lawsuits with one another is a defeat for you. Why not just accept the injustice and leave it at that? Why not let yourselves be cheated?” I Corinthians 6: 6-7***

 In our world today, we are taught to stand up for our rights. This passage tells us the opposite. Which way is the ‘right’ way?

 What a radical concept it is to allow ourselves to be cheated instead of going to court over it. The problem with standing up for our rights is that others are watching what you do and how you handle yourselves. They see that it’s more important to you to prove that you own a two-foot strip of land at the edge of your property than to have a good relationship with your neighbor. They see that displaying garden gnomes in your flower bed is worth fighting for. They see that you are willing to squabble with your family members over who gets Great Aunt Jo’s collectible china. In essence, they see that you are no different than anybody else.

 Our job as Christians isn’t to fight for our ‘rights.’ Our job is to show Jesus to a lost and hurting world. You will make a bigger impact on those around you if you allow others to take what ‘rightfully’ should be yours. Matthew 5 tells us to give more than what is asked of us, to do good to our enemies, and be kind to those who are unthankful; that is how we can be distinguished from the world.

 So, the next time someone jumps in front of you in line, or takes the last piece of pie at the buffet, or your neighbor insists that your yard should be mowed every five days because theirs is, remember that Jesus instructs you to, ***“Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.” ~Luke 6:28*** Your witness should be more important than your ‘rights.’