

## Chapter Eight: Righteous Judgment

It was an eerie feeling to be entering Barstow's Military Hospital so soon. Laevieus remembers the last time he was here Samantha was being released after being a patient for so long. Why would he have to return? As Laevieus walks through the corridors he looks at the people laying in their hospital beds fast asleep and is a bit grateful that he does not see Samantha among them. But his leading is taking him away from these and into a very restricted and very sanitary area. "Whoever is in here must have been very ill." Thinks Laevieus as he stands at the door of this well separated wing of the hospital. As Laevieus walks through the doors he starts to get a familiar feeling as if he knows someone here but for some reason, he is not able to detect who it is. He continues to walk to a room sectioned off by screens and sees a doctor standing just outside of the curtains. Laevieus stops to listen to what the doctor is saying to his nurse; "I want you to get a hold of Dr. Stanley Cane at the University of California at Berkley, here is his number" he speaks as he writes the number on a piece of paper and hands it to the nurse. "Tell him that I need to speak with him right away." "Yes doctor." Replies the nurse then turns and walks away. The doctor takes a deep breath and pulls the curtain away from in front of him then enters in, Laevieus follows to the curtain but does not enter in; he wants to listen in before he enters.

"Well, the treatment is not working, so we will have to try something else." Says the doctor; "I have put in a call to Doctor Stanley Cane at the University of California, he is an expert on lymphoblastic leukemia, and he will be able to better guide us into a different method of treatment." Suddenly a voice speaks that is very familiar to Laevieus; "Thank you doctor, please let us know as soon as you hear from him." This voice caught Laevieus' heart, it was Doug! It was almost as if his heart stopped when he heard Doug speak, and now a sense of fear was rising, he needed to know who was sick. A nurse enters in; "Doctor, we have Dr. Stanley waiting on line three for you." "Thank you nurse." Replies the doctor, who then turns to Doug and says, "I will be right back with news, excuse me for a moment." The doctor leaves the room. "Who could be in their sick bed?" questioned Laevieus; "It has to be Amber, it cannot be Samantha, she is just too young!" And with that thought Laevieus steps through the curtains, and to his great horror it is Samantha! She is attached to a life support system; she has tubes running in and out of her. Amber is beside herself unable to stand or to speak, let alone cry. She looks very still; no smile, no tears, no movement, just a deep stare at Samantha's still body. Laevieus is beside himself also, he can feel his emotions starting to lump up as if it wanted to scream! The sight of Samantha in that bed had a breaking affect that caused Laevieus to feel emotions of anger that he was unfamiliar with. "How cruel is this my Lord? She is only a child who has done nothing deserving of such pain!" speaks Laevieus as he looks towards the heavens. Suddenly a voice speaks back; "Laevieus, is it wrong for Him to ask for her? Tell me Laevieus, is your anger towards him, or for you?" "It is not for me! It is not just!" replies Laevieus in a stern voice. "Why has He asked this of me? Why has

He asked THIS of me?" questions Laevieus. "Is it right to question Him? You question what you do not understand; you want to understand so you can trust; but it is enough to know that He knows." replies the voice. "It is not so! She has done nothing worthy of such suffering, her family has done nothing to provoke Him!" speaks Laevieus. "That is true in your heart Laevieus, but he knows and you must believe that it is just." And with that they both stop speaking.

The doctor returns with news; "I have spoken to doctor Cane; he will be here tomorrow to check on Samantha personally. He thinks that there is still a chance to help her so he will make a sound decision as to what direction we should take." "Thank you doctor, we appreciate that good news." replies Doug. Amber looks up at the doctor and with what little strength she has, she smiles and starts to tear. "How long have they been going through this suffering?" questions Laevieus; "the last time I saw them they were sitting down to dinner; she was speaking Spanish, and there were no signs of Samantha's sickness coming back." Laevieus stands beside Samantha's bed; she looks so sick, so frail for someone so young. Almost six months had gone by since his last visit and the thoughts of not being there through her hard times made Laevieus sick at himself! Laevieus turns to look at Amber and Doug. Doug was kneeling down beside Amber to give her comforting words. "Honey, did you hear what the doctor said, there is still a chance to help her! Isn't that wonderful!" says Doug as he stares into Amber's eyes. "Why don't we take a short break and get you something to eat. You have been sitting up for days without food or sleep and I don't want to have to admit you also." Amber smiles and takes hold of Doug's hand to stand, she walks over to Samantha's bed to touch her one last time before they step out. "Honey, mommy will be right back; mommy loves you!" says Amber as she starts to cry then turns and walks out with Doug leaving Laevieus all alone in her room.

Laevieus stares at Samantha and in his heart he knows what is coming for her, but he just can't get himself to do it. Suddenly all the machines start to wail with one tone and his darling child Samantha has just died! Laevieus is beside himself, he doesn't know what to do! Suddenly the staffs of nurses enter in to revive Samantha; one shout to contact the doctor while the others continue to administer CPR. Doug and Amber come running after they received the news of what just happened, but they are asked to wait outside the curtain while the staff continues to work. Amber is now sobbing into Doug's chest and Doug is holding her tight as he stares at the curtains of Samantha's partition. The doctors come running past Doug and Amber and starts to shout out orders to revive Samantha, but after twenty-five minutes of constant CPR application, the doctor steps out of the curtains to pronounce Samantha dead at twelve-thirty seven in the morning. Samantha has just lost her fight with Leukemia, and Laevieus is filled with rage for what has occurred! "THIS IS NOT JUST!" screams Laevieus; "How could You do this to her?" Laevieus starts to weep; "She has done nothing to deserve such suffering and a shortness of life." Laevieus listens as Amber has come in to wail over her lost child as Doug, who was the strength through it all, has broken into an uncontrollable sob. Laevieus looks at Samantha and knows that He has

made him the one to carry her into the kingdom, for it is the task that He has placed upon him. “Why me Lord? Why did You do this to me? Why could You not let another receive her over me?” Say Laevius; “I cannot do this! This is just too painful for me! You ask much of me; I cannot do this.” And with that Laevius turns around and walks away!

Laevius leaves the hospital and walks the streets of the human realm looking at all that He had created. He looks upon the humans and stares intently at them with rage and contempt as they pass him not knowing that he is even there. “Look at these humans, they have no idea what waits for them on the other side. They cannot see me or even care that on their day they will see me. They do not deserve the kindness of God let alone His mercies! How can He look upon these and see any good in them when they care for no one but themselves?” And with that Laevius is indignant towards mankind. “God shows too much mercy on those who do not deserve it! He shows too much hatred for those who not deserve it!” And in his heart Laevius feels that God is making a mistake about Samantha. “If He could not see the good in her to heal her, then His judgment is wrong! He should have let her live! He should have given her a chance! But He didn’t! He shortened her life to have her for Himself! It is not fair; it is not just!” And with that now burning in his heart Laevius decides to take matters into his own hands and continues to walk the streets. He is blinded by his own rage as he comes across an act of injustice that needs to be corrected now! Laevius takes matters into his own hands.

As he watches, a young woman is being beaten to death by an older man in a dark alley. The man, as he holds the woman with his left hand, strikes her with his right fist, her blood splatter every where as she gasp for life, and with one last blow to her head the woman falls to the ground dead. Laevius is angry at what he has just witnessed, he knows that what he is about to do can send him into the dark pit, but his anger is greater than his compassion and he moves forward to set thing right. Suddenly a voice speaks; “Laevius, we have been watching you. Now you know how we feel! That man does not deserve to live after what he has done to her! That man needs to be off the face of the earth and sent to the pit that waits for such as these.” And with that in his hearing Laevius steps forward and touches the man as he stands straddled over the woman’s body; with one touch to his shoulder the man falls dead on the ground. His spirit separates from his body and he starts to speak; “what is this that has happened to me? Who are you?” he questions as he stares at Laevius. Suddenly he is surrounded by the dark spirits of the underworld who has come to collect the souls of those who die in their acts of injustice. And with a loud scream of terror, the ground opens to reveal hell’s pit burning with fire, and the screams of those who have entered in before him echo as he falls. Laevius looks upon the woman, beaten and dead and determines that she deserves to live, so he leans down and puts his face to hers and with one deep breath he exhales and gives the woman back her life; for as long as the soul is still connected to the body the woman is only asleep. The woman, as if waking from a deep sleep, looks upon the man who had beaten her and sees a lifeless body. She tries to get up and finds that she is to hurt to stand so she starts to scream for help. And as she screams a couple walking by hears

her and comes to her aid; Laevieus feels that this is just and leaves. This act starts to make him feel better, he is now determined to seek out more injustice, and to correct that which he feels is unjust. Laevieus lifts up his arms and with one quick downward motion he starts to fly, away from this scene and into the air. “Those who deserve to live die, while those who deserve death live. This will change.” And he continues to fly searching for the evil upon the earth. “What is this you have done Laevieus?” speaks the voice; “Have you forgotten who you are to Him?” “Laevieus knows what he is doing!” speaks another voice “he is doing what is just,” and with that the voices stop. Laevieus’ heart still hurts for Samantha and reflects at what he saw in the hospital. “That’s right, Laevieus, she should have lived, don’t you think?” speaks the voice. “Yes she should have lived” replies Laevieus. “She should have lived!” Laevieus decides to stop in a town full of evil and turns to head for Las Vegas. “If there is anywhere that needs justice, it is in Las Vegas!” thinks Laevieus who has now descended upon the city that never sleeps.

As he looks around he judges the evil that walk among men. He sees women prostituting the very bodies that God created; he sees men fighting in the streets over money lost; he sees children sitting in dark corners because they have no homes to sleep in. He looks upon all these and decides that God is not just and someone needs to correct this evil! “How can the God that I serve, who for so many centuries judged mankind with compassion, look upon this evil place and not do something to correct it?” “God is not just that’s why Laevieus!” speaks an unfamiliar voice, “If He was just you would see goodness in this town. God is in it for Himself! Do you think He even cares about you?” Laevieus stops to think about the times that he felt so unsure of God’s judgment and how He never spoke to help him. “Maybe He does not care for me” speaks Laevieus, “maybe I am just unimportant enough for Him to see me. If He knew my heart He would have known Samantha! He let her die without a chance to live!” “That’s right Laevieus” speaks the voice, “If He even cared He would have known how much you loved that little girl.” Laevieus feels the hurt of the lost and tears starts to fill his eyes. Then all of a sudden another voice speaks, “Laevieus” And with a knowing of who this voice is, Laevieus falls to his knees.