

Daily Devotion For February 19, 2021

“What does the Lord require of you? But to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8.

The following devotion from the Christian Citizen was sent to me by a member of Union Church to remind us of Executive Order 9066. Today marks 79 years since EO 9066 was issued by President Roosevelt.

“The evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is a painful, yet important, reminder of the dangers inherent in majority rule. An important check on this power to sway governance for good or ill is the voice of people for whom God’s righteous reign is the supreme goal.

Insofar as God gives us the ability to know what is right, Christians must stand firm and advocate for those who are in jeopardy and without access to power, speaking with and for our neighbors in need. Proverbs 31:8-9 ESV calls out: “Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of those who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Just 73 days after the United States entered World War II, on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the evacuation of Japanese Americans from Pacific Coast states and parts of Arizona to internment camps. The order resulted in the removal of more than 120,000 Japanese American men, women and children from their homes in the western United States, principally from areas west of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains. It is important to note that Japanese Americans living east of these areas, as well some 150,000 Japanese Americans living in Hawaii, were not evacuated.

“Allowed only what they could carry, families were forced to abandon homes, friends, farms and businesses to live in ten relocation centers guarded by armed troops and surrounded by barbed wire fences,” reads the inscription on the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Almost three-quarters were U.S. citizens, possessing the same constitutional rights as those who dispatched them to centers located in desolate areas of Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho and California to be held against their will.

Thought For Today: “Lest many of us forget the history of our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray that Micah 6:8 will be part of our daily living. “What does the Lord require of you? But to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with our God. Continue to pray this week’s prayer fuel. Deo Volente.