

# Reflections on 2018

## *Relying on Jesus in Ministry*



GRACE FONTENOT'S MONTHLY UPDATE



DECEMBER 2018

Dear Friends and Family,

The end of the year is a time when many of us find ourselves taking time for reflection. We ask ourselves questions like, “What did I accomplish this year?” or more importantly, “How did I glorify God this past year?” As I ponder these questions, I’m humbled, exhausted, and excited by their answers. This past year, your support for my work has enabled me to become a more accomplished speaker by learning Justice For All’s entire *Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue* seminar, and to take on more responsibility in our ministry by orchestrating and planning events and being the lead speaker at several workshops and seminars. Through these things that I’ve accomplished because of your support, I’ve become a greater asset to the JFA team.

Earlier this month, I met with my spiritual director, and he encouraged me to pray through the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12). The true depth of this particular teaching of Jesus has always alluded me. I’ve always felt that there was some richer meaning that I could never quite put my finger on. As we continued talking, he helped me to understand the first one: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:3) “The poor have nothing,” he shared, “and in many circumstances, they have no way of earning anything. They are completely reliant upon others for shelter, for food, for all of their needs. *To be poor in spirit is to be completely reliant upon God in one’s heart and one’s life.*”

For many Christians, it is a struggle to be reliant upon God. Especially in our culture, we are inadvertently encouraged to rely upon our own strength instead of the Father’s. My natural inclination is to be very self-reliant, but God is teaching me through my work with Justice For All how to rely on His strength—because if it were just up to my strength, I could not do this work. Thankfully, I have a loving Father who has called me to this mission and is always teaching me new ways in which I can grow, both as an advocate and as His daughter. I’ve felt God guiding me very directly in conversations I’ve had on recent trips to Georgia, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. Being poor in spirit is about recognizing that you’re empty without God and asking Him to fill you with His Spirit. By reminding me that I’m empty of true strength without His power, He’s shown me what beautiful things He can reveal to others through me when I surrender to Him.



In the above photo I am presenting JFA’s Equal Rights Argument at a workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico. JFA is always trying to find new and better ways to share pro-life apologetics, and so in this photo you can see eight participants who joined me to illustrate who should be included in the community of those treated with equal rights.



JFA’s fall intern, Kaitlyn Donihue presented information to this confirmation class on how to share with someone that the unborn is biologically human. Kaitlyn is a great speaker and advocate for the unborn. We are excited that she is returning for a spring internship beginning in February!

Last summer I met a priest who mentioned that he has a confirmation class at his parish in a rural Kansan town, and he said he would love for the students there to hear the information that JFA presents. So, accompanied by JFA’s fall semester intern Kaitlyn Donihue, I nervously but faithfully hit the road to tag-team four separate presentations to this class. I knew, logically, that I was prepared, but I still felt in over my head. By God’s strength, I was able to serve this class well, in a way that

both accomplished JFA’s mission of training Christians to be advocates for the unborn and glorified the Lord by relying on His strength.

Thank you for investing in my ministry and giving me an opportunity to serve the Lord in new ways in 2018. Please pray for my work as a trainer with Justice For All, that I would become more radically reliant upon Jesus, and please pray for everyone I’ve spoken to on campus in 2018. Have a Merry Christmas, and I’ll see you in the new year!

For the sake of His sorrowful passion,



JUSTICE FOR ALL - TRAINING THOUSANDS TO MAKE ABORTION UNTHINKABLE FOR MILLIONS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

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