

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Many years ago, a talented, young black girl from Philadelphia made her debut at New York's Town Hall, but she wasn't ready for it. Consequently, the critics trounced her. She returned to Philadelphia in disgrace. Part of her early support had come from a special fund provided by members of her church. This "Fund for Marian Anderson's Future" had launched her career. Now, it appeared, that she had returned, a failure.

Marian's embarrassment and depression lasted for more than a year. Through that time, her mother continued to encourage her. Finally, one of the motherly pep talks sank in. She told her daughter, "Marian, grace must come before greatness." Motivated by those words, Marian Anderson went on to a distinguished career during which she also helped many others who were discouraged by their first failures.

We find an interesting passage from the Old Testament book of Habakkuk which echoes a similar truth shared by Marian's mother.

Habakkuk 2:3 "For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.

We would all like to see success come according to our timetable. We would love it if all of life's circumstances would line up just as we plan them, and have all of our expectations fulfilled. But that is often not the case, at all. In fact, many dreams and goals take years to accomplish, if they come true at all. But be patient and persevere. God's goals will always be fulfilled in the end. The challenge for us is to be patient, keep pace with God, trust His will along the way, and press on.