

Seasons of Recognition

By: Vanessa Burks County

Did you know that Selma Burke, an African American woman, created a sculpted portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt that was later featured on the U.S. dime? Interesting, right? What's also interesting is that most people probably never knew this because she was never credited with this historical work of art which memorialized a U.S. President who sought to care for the poor and spearhead the recovery of the nation after the Great Depression.



As we remember the many contributions of African-American artists, scholars, businessmen, athletes, celebrities, spiritual leaders and yes, inventors in the month of February to the larger society, let us pause to pay special homage to those who, until this day, have not been recognized on a universal scale for the contributions they have made to society as a whole. Let us thank our heavenly Father for the wisdom, talent and sacrifice that so many have poured into mankind.

Maybe you have made some strides, accomplished some goals or done something noteworthy. Maybe you feel like you have gone unnoticed. And that could very well be true. Just know that the gifts and abilities that God has entrusted to you are for such a time as this. Time exists in seasons – even spiritual seasons. “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”¹ Bide your time and wait for your season. Selma Burke’s artistry is now gaining traction on social media platforms. Who would have ever thought her season would be now via social media? Probably not even Selma Burke herself.

God has given all of us something to positively impact our world. Our world may be limited to just a few people – a spouse, a parent, a child, maybe even a congregation. Nevertheless, these people exist in your sphere of influence and can be blessed by the things that God has given you. Regardless to whether you reach THE world or just YOUR world, you matter, you are valuable, relevant and worthy in your season.

When man refuses to acknowledge and praise you, know that God sees and knows and it is he, as in the parable of the talents², who will return to his servant and ask, “What did you do with what I gave you?” You may not reap here in the earth or in your lifetime. The recognition may come to posterity, generations down the line. Keep creating, keep writing, keep performing, don’t stop experimenting and examining and impacting all of the world that you can with all of the good that has been entrusted into your care. Leave a legacy³ great or small that lives on beyond your time on earth.

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” ~ Galatians 6:9

¹Ecclesiastes 3:1

²Matthew 25:14-30

³Proverbs 13:22