

Scripture References

Exodus 6:2-7 God also said to Moses, “I am the Lord. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself fully known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant. “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.’”

Zech 7:9-10 “This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’”

Luke 11:42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.”

Deut 18:1-2 The Levitical priests—indeed, the whole tribe of Levi—are to have no allotment or inheritance with Israel. They shall live on the food offerings presented to the Lord, for that is their inheritance. 2 They shall have no inheritance among their fellow Israelites; the Lord is their inheritance, as he promised them.

Jer 9:23-24 This is what the Lord says: “Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,”

Isa 58:3-7 ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Prov 21:3 To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

Justice Do It

Sep 22, 2019

Fred Hennes, Sermon #647, “The Need for Justice” (Jer 9:23-24)

Biblical justice combines _____ (tsedaqah – the standard of right relationship between all people) and _____ (mishpat – the actions you do to create the standard of tsedaqah).

Most people know they should help the vulnerable. The problem is that they are insufficiently _____ to do it.

The Need for Justice

1. God is _____ through the justice He administers.
2. God _____ His people to administer justice.

Example A: the practice of _____

A lack of justice is a sign that the worshipper’s _____ is not right with God.

Example B: the Levitical _____ tax and tithe

3. Administering justice _____ the Lord.
4. Pursuing justice acknowledges the _____ of man.
5. Representing God to the world demands _____, not just words or rituals.

Life Group Activity

1. Give every person a piece of paper and a pen and ask them to confidentially write something about themselves that others in the group most likely do not know. Collect the slips of paper and read them one at a time having others in the group guess who wrote it.

Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
3. Should we be more concerned, less concerned or equally concerned about local injustices or global injustices? Which can we have the greatest impact in changing?
4. Five points were made as to why there is a need for justice. Which one do you think is most important? Why?
5. Read Leviticus 19:9-10. God is asking farmers to limit their profits. Explain how this command ensures a just society?

6. We often read of justice and righteousness being joined together, especially in the Old Testament. Explain your definition of righteousness.

Application Questions & Prayer

7. Name an injustice that you observe in this world that breaks your heart the greatest. What can you do, practically, to bring about justice to this concern?
8. Do you agree or disagree that people in prosperous situations tend to neglect justice since they themselves are treated fairly?
9. Pray for one another so that you increase your sensitivity to justice and the actions you can take to ensure that others are treated well, and injustices are fixed.