

The Prophetic Imagination

Act Justly

SERMON SUMMARY

Deep down we all want justice. We want things to be fair and equitable in our world and with other people, especially with those who are vulnerable. God loves and defends those who are vulnerable. We should too. This is what it means to act justly. The prophets of the Old Testament called God's people to act justly. Jesus calls us to live justly as his followers today

KEY VERSES

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8 NIV

SERMON NOTES LINK

<https://bible.com/events/49403715>



DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What is the first image that comes to your mind when you think of the word, "justice"? Would your image describe more of a retributive or restorative justice?
2. Read Zechariah 7:9-10. In these verses the prophet gives several categories of people to whom we should show justice. They were the vulnerable people of the prophet's day. What categories of people would you include in this list of the vulnerable in our world today?
3. Read Psalm 89:14. If someone asked you, "Tell me what God is like" how might you use this verse to describe God? How would you use God's justice to describe Him?
4. Read Micah 6:8. In this verse the prophet tells us justice, mercy and humility are desirable character traits - a way of living God wants us to develop. Why are each of these important in our walk with God?
5. Read Acts 4:32-35. Focus on verse 33 -34. "And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them." These verses give us a picture of how justice was being lived out in the early church. How is this instructive for us as the church today?
6. In his book, *Generous Justice*, Timothy Keller writes, "Generosity toward the vulnerable is a key marker in the Bible of how well someone knows God and whether they are a just person." What do think it looks like to be generous toward the vulnerable in our world today? See if you can come up with two or three specific examples.
7. Read Luke 11:38-42. Joel B. Green writes, "The disposition of one's possessions signifies the disposition of one's heart." What is Jesus saying in these verses about how our response to the poor is an indicator of our heart for God?
8. Read James 2:14-17. When it comes to acting justly, there should be a deep connection between our faith and our deeds. How does James explain this in these verses?

PRAYER EXERCISE

Take some time to thank God for His justice and mercy toward you. Thank Him for justifying you through Jesus' death on the cross. Ask God to give you His eyes to notice the vulnerable and His heart to love and defend them.