

Seeking Justice

Key Scriptures

Micah 6:8⁸ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Job 29:12-17¹² I delivered the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to help him. ¹³ The blessing of him who was about to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy. ¹⁴ I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban. ¹⁵ I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. ¹⁶ I was a father to the needy, and I searched out the cause of him whom I did not know. ¹⁷ I broke the fangs of the unrighteous and made him drop his prey from his teeth.

Job 31:13-28¹³ "If I have denied justice to any of my servants, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me, ¹⁶ "If I have denied the desires of the poor or let the eyes of the widow grow weary, ¹⁷ if I have kept my bread to myself, not sharing it with the fatherless—¹⁹ if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing, or the needy without garments, ²⁰ and their hearts did not bless me for warming them with the fleece from my sheep, ²¹ if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, knowing that I had influence in court, ²² then let my arm fall from the shoulder, let it be broken off at the joint. . . .²⁸ then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

Key Point: Justice involves both condemnation & grace.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What is it about cops & robbers movies & tv shows (or superhero / bad guy shows) that appeal to you?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Read Micah 6:8 in 3-4 different translations. What is it saying, and how does it apply to us today?
- Kyle talked about two sides of justice; a negative side that must condemn the wicked, and a positive side that upholds the weak. How does Job understand justice?
- What is Jesus' understanding about justice? (Luke 11:38-42, Mark 12:38-40)
- How does the gospel (being a sinner saved by grace) connect with caring about the poor and marginalized in society? Can you be a Christian and not care?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Unjust living is not only about doing wrong things, but about not doing right things. When God has given us resources and we withhold them from people who need them, we aren't doing justly or loving mercy. What are the ways you find yourself challenged to live justly?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- How can you be more involved in justice personally? Standing up for what is right? Helping the quartet of the vulnerable (widow, orphan, immigrant, and poor) and the marginalized in society?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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