

DO JUSTICE: RADICAL COMPASSION

ISAIAH 58:6-12 // JON MILLER (PRISON FELLOWSHIP)
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To be people of justice means to engage in radical Christ-centred ministry of mercy and compassion. We are to seek to bring freedom to the oppressed and to be generous to the poor and destitute (v.6-7, 9b-10a.) Mercy and compassion invites God's favour and blessing (v.8-9a, 10b-12).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Where would you find people in your community who are under oppression? What do you think justice would look like in their situations?
- Where would you expect to find people in your community who are struggling in poverty? What would true compassion look like in their situations?
- In your church, who is responsible for showing mercy and compassion towards those in need? Is it the responsibility of everyone in the same way, or does it fall specifically to a few a people with really big hearts? What are some advantages/disadvantages of each approach?
- From God's perspective, why are we all, spiritually speaking, poor and oppressed before turning to Jesus? What hope does the gospel offer us in our spiritual destitution?

“Churches are not made that men of ready speech may stand up on Sundays and talk, and so win daily bread from their admirers. No, there is another end and aim for this. These places of worship are not built that you may sit comfortably and hear something that shall make you pass away your Sundays with pleasure. A church which does not exist to do good in the slums, and dens, and kennels of the city, is a church that has no reason to justify its longer existing. A church that does not exist to reclaim heathenism, to fight with evil, to destroy error, to put down falsehood, a church that does not exist to take the side of the poor, to denounce injustice and to hold up righteousness, is a church that has no right to be.” – C. H. Spurgeon

- Consider the above quote from Charles Spurgeon. What effect has good preaching and comfortable worship had on your heart for others?
- Outside of time spent at a church service, how do you grow your sense of mercy and compassion towards people who are mistreated or neglected? What has God done to help you develop in this area?
- What motivates you as you move to help others in need? Is it reward from God (Proverbs 19:17) or relationship with God (Micah 6:8) or response to grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)?
- Imagine yourself in full cooperation with the Holy Spirit to show compassion to people who are oppressed, poor, or destitute. What would you like your personal ministry to look like?
- What challenges do you experience (or reticence do you feel) in serving the way you’ve just imagined?
- What is the simplest gesture you can do to promote justice for the oppressed and/or show compassion to the poor? How you can be sure to follow through on this idea?