

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Biblical Values and Social Justice
Pastor Gabe Kasper
October 4th, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What's your favorite junk food?

Reading: Luke 4: 16-30

Outline:

- I. The Bible and Justice (v. 16-19)
 - a. God's justice is about liberating the oppressed and punishment for wrongdoing
 - b. God calls his people to practice restorative justice, which is about advocating for the vulnerable
Q: What is the difference between social (restorative) justice and retributive justice?
- II. Jesus and Justice (v. 20-21)
 - a. Jesus came to give justice to the poor and liberate the oppressed, true social justice
 - b. As Christians, we should be the most vocal advocates for the oppressed in our society
Q: Why should we be cautious about social justice apart from Jesus?
- III. Justice and You
 - a. We need to look inward because we are caught up in these systems of unrighteousness too
 - b. We need Jesus to set us free, so we can pursue justice in this world
Q: Why should we fight for justice in this world?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) It can be easier to ignore social justice issues when they don't directly impact us. How can we ensure that we are remaining aware of injustices that exist in our society?
- 2) Can you think of an example of someone who is actively fighting for social justice in our society or world?
- 3) What can we do to actively address the injustices we see? What are some practical examples of steps we can take in our lives to fight for social justice?
- 4) Why is it important for us to look inward if we don't seem to be the ones actively oppressing others?
- 5) Is it easier for us to see injustice in other cultures rather than our own?

Suggestions for further study:

- Zechariah 7:10-11 **Q: In what ways have we failed to do what this verse says in our society?**
- Proverbs 31: 8-9 **Q: What does it mean to "judge righteously"?**
- Proverbs 21:15 **Q: Why would justice be a terror to evildoers?**

Closing Prayer: God we thank you that you are a God of justice, that you care about right and wrong. You are a God of justice who cares about the oppressed and the marginalized. God help us to be a people who share your heart, and help us to stand up for those who have been harmed. May we look to Jesus and what he has done for us, and extend that to the world. In Jesus's name, Amen.