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Justice: What Does It Look Like? – Part 2



Introduction

God is a God of justice for all—the rich and poor. Justice asks: “Is he innocent or guilty?”—based on the right standard. **Justice is blind.** It cares not if someone is rich or poor. Guilty is guilty and innocent is innocent. Justice is blind to racial, economic, or social differences. Basically, justice demands that everyone is equal. **Justice also seeks to uplift the needy because that is just, too.**

God is a God of Justice and Love

He **loves righteousness and justice**; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord (Psalm 33:5).

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and

knows me, that I am the Lord who practices **steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth.** For in these things I delight, declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).

God Expects Us to Exercise Justice

Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you (Deuteronomy 16:20).

Blessed are they who **observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!** (Psalm 106:3)

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause (Isaiah 1:17).

Thus says the Lord of hosts, **Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another** (Zechariah 7:9).

To **do righteousness and justice** is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3).

When **justice** is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers (Proverbs 21:15).

Evil men do not understand **justice**, but those who seek the Lord understand it completely (Proverbs 28:5).

Give justice to the **weak** and the **fatherless**; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute (Psalm 82:3).

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: **justice**

and **mercy** and **faithfulness**. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others (Matthew 23:23).

“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and **neglect justice** and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others (Luke 11:42).

Vigilante?

While God wants his people to pursue justice, he does not want man to take matters into his own hands.

Paul admonishes the Romans to “**never avenge yourselves**, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord” (Romans 12:19).

He continues by indicating that God has instituted government to administer justice when wrong is done in society. He declares, “For **he is God's servant for your good**. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For **he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer**” (Romans 13:4).

Speak Up for the Rights of Others

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. **Open your mouth**, judge righteously, **defend the rights of the poor** and **needy** (Proverbs 31:8-9).

If you see in a province the **oppression of the poor** and **the violation of justice** and **righteousness**, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them (Ecclesiastes 5:8).

Justice is Getting What You Deserve

Who **acquits the guilty for a bribe**, and **deprives the innocent of his right!** (Isaiah 5:23)

It is not good to be partial to the wicked or to deprive the righteous of justice (Proverbs 18:5).

Whoever says to the **wicked**, “**You are in the right**,” will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them (Proverbs 24:24-25).

Conclusion

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; **he will faithfully bring forth justice**. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: ...(Isaiah 42:1-9)

“**So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them**, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly with your God** (Micah 6:8)?

Study

How often does God mention widows, the fatherless, and sojourners in the Bible? What is the context of those occurrences?

Practice

What can you do to help widows and the fatherless?

Teach

Tell someone how God views justice and why it is important.