

Lost in Translation
Week 1 - Justice
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Psalm 106:3 (NLT) - *There is joy for those who deal justly with others and always do what is right.*

Hosea 12:6 (NLT) - *So now, come back to your God. Act with love and justice, and always depend on him.*

Amos 5:24 (NIV) - *But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*

Cultural justice: Justice in our culture when lived out in the extremes can either be...

“You reap what you sow”

“You made your bed and now you get to sleep in it”

“What goes around, comes around”

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 (NLT) - *Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality. Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal.*

OR...

“Everyone should be equal in everything all the time”

“Everyone deserves equal outcomes”

“Everything is equal, equal, equal, fair, fair, fair”

2 Thessalonians 3:10b (NLT) - *“Those unwilling to work will not get to eat.”*

There are also 2 philosophies of justice:

1. Punitive Justice

Punitive justice places an emphasis on punishment as the best way to deter crime. The goal of punitive justice is that lawbreakers suffer the pain of punishment and determine to avoid it in the future, while onlookers will decide not to commit criminal acts so as to avoid similar treatment.

2. Restorative Justice

Restorative justice does not focus on punishing the criminal as much as having the criminal make amends for the crime with an attempt to restore all involved: criminals, victims, and all of society.

There are different views of what justice is and how justice should be lived out, but what do we see in scripture about justice? What does the word justice even mean?
Simply put biblical justice is doing what is right or correct in the eyes of God. Biblical justice isn't about what is fair as much as what is right.

3 Areas We Want to See Justice:

1. Social Justice

Isaiah 1:17 (NIV) - *Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.*

2. Justice of Injustice (wrong doing)

Proverbs 20:22 (NIV) - *Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong! Wait for the LORD, and he will avenge you.*

Romans 12:17-21 (NLT) - *You can't have justice without mercy...*

Zechariah 7:9 (NIV) - *"This is what the LORD Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another.*

Jesus says this...

Matthew 5:38-40 & 43-45 (NIV) - ³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well...

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Do you care more about revenge or restoration?

3. Justice of God

Deuteronomy 32:4 (NIV) - ³ *I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! ⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.*



Sermon Notes



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