



BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE | Justice for All | Week 3 | Dec 14 & 15

Isaiah 11:1-5; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:8

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: We considered this weekend, how perfect justice now may be IMPOSSIBLE, but progress toward it, further alignment with it is not.

- How do you define *justice*? What does it look like in the flow of everyday life?
- Now describe *injustice*. What does injustice look like to you in everyday life?
- How do you know when something is just or unjust?

Context: Pastor Rick Glyman asked in the classic service, “as we consider the gross injustices, ...evil regimes, ...the poor and the marginalized, ...and the seeming impossibility of ever reversing this death spiral” we yearn for an answer as to what power can overcome these impossible odds?

- What injustice is particularly obvious and upsetting to you?
- Is there anything being done that you know of to address this injustice?
- How can you learn more? What small things can you do that over time will help address this injustice?

The Prophet predicts: Read Isaiah 11:1-10. This passage begins and ends with “the root of Jesse.” Chapter 10 describes the previous judgement and desolation that left the stump that the “branch” grew from.

- How is the “branch” described? Write a list of attributes and actions.
- What does the contrast in verses 3 and 4 signify to you? Talk about it with the group.
- Who is the “branch” most interested in?

God’s kind of justice: It’s been said that, “ God’s kind of justice is about fixing or healing what is broken - and bringing things into line with His moral standards.”

- What brokenness in the world and your life comes to mind?
- Share with the group where this past week have you noticed an injustice that you wish could have been transformed by God’s kind of justice?
- How would that situation have been different?
- What can you do practically to begin living towards God’s justice in this situation?

Justice and Righteousness: Read Amos 5:21-24. Amos ’prophecy is to an unrepentant, or perhaps unaware, Israel who has lost reverence for God and is going through the motions.

- Where is justice flowing here? What will righteousness accomplish?
- Is it possible that Israel was unaware of their insincerity in worship?
- When do you experience a similar insincerity around you? When does this happen in your life?



A Prophet's Clarity: Read Micah 6:8, in the context of misunderstood worship (vs. 6-7).

- What three things are addressed in the text in vs. 8? Talk about what that would look like in your life. Be as practical and specific as possible.
- What barriers do you see towards this? Again be as specific as possible.

Living Injustice: This weekend we were asked to remember our reaction to injustice when it impacts us. We all hate it when someone treats us unfairly.

- Journal or share with the group what has been your personal reaction to being treated unjustly?
- How did it effect you short-term and long term?

But God sees it all: Pastor King Duncan was quoted, "Justice is a much larger and more complicated concept than kindness. Kindness is an individual act. We can be kind to a homeless person with a donation at the traffic light, but justice is going after homelessness."

- How do you practically deal with this "impossibility" of justice?

Jesus talks about Justice: Read Matt 25:31-46. In Micah 6:8 we learned to act (do justice) with an empathic emotion (love mercy) and do so in humility (with reverence for God).

- How can you overlay these two passages? As you think of the list of actions Jesus speaks of, how do they influence us living out Micah 6:8?
- On a practical level, what can you do next week in light of this teaching? Talk about what it would take. Is there some way you can enter this as a group?
- How can we pray as a group to pursue justice in the coming week?

Practice of the Week: Actively Waiting for God to set things right

In this week's Advent Devotional we will consider the example of Simeon and Ana and how they waited for justice - waited for God to set things right. You can sign up to receive our weekly Advent devotionals by texting "ADVENT" to 630.206.3230 or visit Christchurch.us/advent.

Just because the solution seems impossible doesn't mean that we can't do something to advance the cause of Justice in some way. Choose an injustice that captures your heart and commit yourself to: Learning more about it. • Building relationships with people addressing it. • Praying for God's power to address it. • Volunteering your time or giving your money to help advance it.

We'd love to hear from you!

If you have thoughts, questions, comments, ideas on how to make these study guides more meaningful for you or your small group, please let us know.

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.

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