

## **Justice 5 – Seeking justice for the weak**

10<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### **Introduction**

“How can we get involved in doing j\_\_\_\_\_?” Micah 6:8.

### **Christians are called to have a particular concern for the weak and vulnerable**

> God calls us to be impartial - Leviticus 19:15. BUT

> Have regard for the w\_\_\_\_\_ – Psalm 41:1. [Pay close attention; try to understand the c\_\_\_\_\_ of their condition.]

> Assumption: There will be weak and vulnerable p\_\_\_\_\_; and oppression of some. [Proverbs 14:20, 19:4, 22:22-23]

> The Lord has regard for the w\_\_\_\_\_.

> Take action / speak. Proverbs 31:8-9. They cannot do it for themselves.

> If we don't s\_\_\_\_\_ up for the weak and vulnerable – there certainly won't be justice.

### **Who should I focus on? (Luke 10:25-37)**

So much injustice. For example:

*Locally:*

*Locally / nationally:*

*Internationally:*

Different ways Christians have responded...

One extreme...

Other extreme...

Balance: Proclaiming the g\_\_\_\_\_ / making disciples is a priority. But still - “Act justly...” (Micah 6:8).

Learning from the Parable of the G\_\_\_\_ Samaritan. “Who is my neighbour?”

> We're called to love G\_\_\_ and our neighbour. (verse 27-28)

> What motivates us: The gospel. Spiritually we are the dying m\_\_\_\_. 1 John 4:10.

> The two religious m\_\_\_\_: What stops them helping...

> Samaritan:

> Who is my neighbour? The person I come into contact with who needs help. Who am I a n\_\_\_\_\_ to? The person I help.

### **Is it the Church's job?**

> “The institutional church's job is to make disciples rather than change the world; but it has to form disciples in a way that they go out to do justice” (Abraham Kuyper).

> Christians working together: Eg ACT

### **So what?**

1, Justice in the church: Get our own h\_\_\_\_\_ in order

2, Justice at work: Doing justice at w\_\_\_\_\_

3, Is God calling some of us to a particular ministry?

4, Pray!

5, Local, national and intern\_\_\_\_\_

6, What we can do:

> Direct relief

> Empowerment

> Challenging social structures

> Tell people the good news about Jesus

7, Look forward to when Christ will return.

## **Appendix: How do believers take part in justice? (from “Justice in the Bible” - see below)**

- 1, Start with the church – deal with injustices within
- 2, Work in the world – Christians doing their work justly
- 3, With hopeful patience
- 4, With informed listening
- 5, Giving clear witness of Christ
- 6, Being political but not partisan – Christians not being seen as “foot-soldiers for political movements”
- 7, Liberating the conscience – giving people freedom to choose who to vote for etc
- 8, Going local
- 9, Embracing complexity – There's never one simple explanation for injustice
- 10, Learning from Christian leaders of colour
- 11, Tackling the elephant in the room – namely, how do we define systemic racism?
- 12, Transforming power – using power to serve

### **Taking it further**

#### *Articles*

“Justice in the Bible” - Timothy Keller – at

<https://quarterly.gospelinlife.com/justice-in-the-bible>

“A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory” - Timothy Keller – at <https://quarterly.gospelinlife.com/a-biblical-critique-of-secular-justice-and-critical-theory>

#### *Sermons*

Listen at [www.anlabychurches.org.uk](http://www.anlabychurches.org.uk) Go to Resources / Listen again:

The God of justice – 5 September 2021

### ***Resources***

#### *Local poverty*

West Hull Foodbank; Hessle Foodbank

#### *Suffering Christians*

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org>

<https://barnabasfund.org>

#### *Worldwide poverty*

<https://www.tearfund.org>

<https://www.micahnetwork.org>

Children in poverty - <https://www.compassionuk.org>

#### *Abortion, euthanasia etc*

<https://www.christian.org.uk>

<https://christianconcern.com>

#### *Other organisations...*

### **To reflect on / think about**

> Why should Christians have a particular concern for the weak and vulnerable?

> What injustices have you come across in the last year or two – among your friends and neighbours, or more widely?

> How can you be a neighbour to someone in need / facing injustice this week?

> Pray about it.