



DOING GOD'S JUSTICE (Just Mercy) - TEXT: Isaiah 58:1-14

God & Repentance—lets come to an UNDERSTANDING: Is. 58:1

- 1) God expects His children to **GROW & CHANGE**
 - a) He **EXPECTS** maturity
 - b) He **EXPECTS** transformation
 - c) He **EXPECTS** the shunning of sin
- 2) God's **JUSTICE** is linked to His **MERCY**
 - a) God works out his plan of divine justice through His wrath & His Judgment
 - b) God gives **MERCY & GRACE** to spare & change those who are under His wrath
- 3) God gives the gift of **REPENTANCE** as the tool of **TRANSFORMATION**: Heb. 12:5-9; Prov. 3:1-9
 - a) God confronts His people & their sin
 - b) God does this as love, not sadism

It's time to have a COME TO JESUS moment: Is. 58:2-5

- 1) We have followed the formula — our false assurance
 - a) We humbled ourselves
 - b) We fasted
 - c) We put on sackcloth & sat in ashes
- 2) Bless us, like you blessed Jabez — our entitlement
 - a) Bless us because we're good people
 - b) Bless us because we deserve good things
 - c) Bless us to prove your love to us
 - d) Bless us so we'll continue following You
- 3) God's Problem with our religion
 - a) We'll Bible study ourselves to death, but still won't see our real issues
 - b) We'll pray and ask God to grow us, but won't follow His lead into dark places
 - c) We ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit and will waste our blessings on our own pleasures

Let's face the Elephant in the room: Is.58:3-7; Mic. 6:8

- 1) We've neglected the weightier matters
 - a) We've ignored justice for the foreigner, the unborn, the slave, the widow, the orphan
 - b) We've denied our sympathy & empathy for the down trodden & oppressed
 - c) We've kept the needy, the hurting, the broken, the tired at arms-length so their problems won't affect our personal reality
 - d) We've allowed our politics and personal agendas to supersede our God mandated responsibilities
- 2) We have failed our communities, our cities, our country, & our world
 - a) The Church as a whole has been **FRACTURED** by politics & selfish agendas
 - b) We can **NO LONGER** remain silent about racial injustice, pedophilia, abortion, systemic racism, and the like
 - c) This isn't about conservative vs liberal, Republican vs Democrat, Black vs White vs Red vs Yellow vs Tan
 - d) This is about God's **MANDATE** to make disciples of **ALL NATIONS, TRIBES, & TONGUES**
 - e) This is about showing the **GRACE, MERCY, & LOVE** of God through showing **COMPASSION**

God's COMMAND to Repent— KILLING our PRIDE & Prejudice & Zombies: Is. 58:8-12

- 1) Confession is necessary, **BUT** we **DON'T STOP THERE**: 1 Jn. 1:9
 - a) **IDENTIFY** your Pride & your Prejudices not only exist, but are actively deceiving you
 - b) **AGREE** with God we've gone against Him and His way of doing things
 - c) **WATCH** ourselves that we don't stop at confession and think we're good with God—confession is only beginning of repentance
- 2) **CONFRONT** your reluctance to **CHANGE**
 - a) Repentance is **ACTIVE & thought-out**—stop the spiritual zombie life
 - b) Repentance brings **FREEDOM** from sinful bondage & thinking
 - c) Repentance reopens us to the true **HOLINESS & the GLORY** of God
- 3) **RE-Focus** on Jesus and His **MISSION**
 - a) Repentance brings enlightenment to God's will
 - b) Repentance brings healing & restoration
 - c) Repentance brings closeness with God & Spiritual Growth

Unite, Ignite and Spark a Light to burn so Bright: Is. 58:13-14, Heb.10:19-26

- 1) We begin by **SEEKING** the good & growth of **ALL PEOPLE**, not merely the ones we think deserve it
- 2) We **PRACTICE** the **SABBATH** by doing **JUSTICE**, loving **MERCY**, and walking **HUMBLY** with our God
- 3) We start small, **BUT** we **CONTINUE** practicing Micah 6:8 even when our emotions or our stinking thinking don't line up
 - a) Emotions will fall in line as we continue showing love
 - b) Stinking thinking is brought into line through repenting and the Word
- 4) We expect God will preserve us & build us in our task at hand as we continue in lifelong repentance

"Gospel in Life" questions for REFLECTION & APPLICATION

- 1) **BELIEVE:** WHAT TRUTHS did God REVEAL to me through His Word today about HIM and/or MYSELF?

- 2) **ASSESS:** HOW do these truths ENCOURAGE and/or CHALLENGE (*convict*) ME?

- 3) **PROCESS:** WHY is this message GOOD NEWS (*GOSPEL*) to ME today? (*CONNECT the GOSPEL story to MY present story*)

- 4) **CHANGE:** WHERE will I APPLY (*BELIEVE, REPENT, DO*) this message in MY own life this week?

- 5) **PROCLAIM:** WHOM does God want ME to share these truths with this week?

➤ **PREPARE for NEXT WEEK:** Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-13