

sermon study summary

Justice – Global Missions Weekend

May 6 / 7, 2023

Speakers: Jutta Wittmeier (Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre), Steve Wile (Mustard Seed), Paul Brandt (Not In My City), Katherine Milum (New Canadian Friendship Centre), Jacquie Meyer (Her Victory), Steve Griffin (Centre for the City)

Q: What is God-honoring justice?

God calls His people to be His image bearers. His works are perfect, and all His ways are just (Deut. 32:4). The Lord calls us to “Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow” (Jeremiah 22:3).

God’s command, “I will bless you **so that** you can bless others” is a reminder that all He gives us—prosperity, wealth, family, security—are gifts to be shared generously with those who don’t have them. “And what does the LORD require of you? To **act justly** and to **love mercy** and to **walk humbly with your God**” (Micah 6:8).

Q: What crisis became the impetus for you to address justice?

JUTTA Wittmeier, Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre: I volunteered at the Pregnancy Care Centre and now I am leading it. I shared life with people who were brave enough to ask for help. That courage above all odds gives me hope that we can make a difference.

STEVE Wile, Mustard Seed: Following a crisis in my life, I asked God, “What do you want me to do?” God gave me a life verse: Micah 6:8. When looking for opportunities to serve, that verse had always been in the background. Twenty years later at the Mustard Seed we help those who have faced injustice and need the grace of God. We reach out and touch them and make a difference in their lives.

PAUL Brandt, Not In My City: My wife Liz and I were invited by Samaritan’s Purse to see what they were doing to fight human trafficking. What we saw in Cambodia changed our lives forever.

Cambodian law considers trafficked children to be “owned property.” The group that was intervening on behalf of child trafficking victims would pay the going rate to take children for a day, then take them to a safe place, feed them, clothe them, give them toys, and just let them be kids. At the end of the day the children would have to be returned to their owner. Where’s the justice in that? That shattered us. It changed our lives forever.

KATHERINE Milum, New Canadian Friendship Centre: I came to a gradual understanding as I worked at the Friendship Centre, hearing the stories of refugees. A lawyer from South America, struggling with the loss of everything, just wept. I felt really inadequate because of the language barrier, so I just listened and prayed with her. She took English classes with us, went on her way and is doing well, but she keeps in touch. Recently she texted me: “NCFC is very important to me because you shook my hand when no one else did.”

Q: Why should we persevere to stand up to those who are threatened and at risk?

STEVE: One word: Image-bearers. Every person is made in the image of God, even those facing injustice.

JUTTA: If not me, then who? We are participants in injustice if we stand by and do nothing.

KATHERINE: The more we live in the physical reality of how we address injustice, the more we understand the spiritual reality of what God has done to rescue us.

PAUL: We love because we were first loved. We persevere because Jesus persevered for us.

Q: What would it look like for us as individuals to get involved?

How we get involved is a matter of personality, gift and calling. Each of us can do something. If everybody did one thing, got involved in one person, we could change the world.

Restorative change is promoted as we (1) Proclaim the value of each person in God’s creation, (2) Speak against the sin we see around us, (3) Are pro-active regarding ministry initiatives that focus on human worth and value, (4) Move people away from brokenness to salvation and restoration, and (5) Focus on helping people stay safe in community.

It all starts with our hearts being broken for what breaks the heart of God.

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. In movies, shows, or books, where do you see the theme of justice explored?
2. How have you experienced justice in your own life?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read Deuteronomy 32:4, Jeremiah 22:3, Micah 6:8, Matthew 7:12.

3. What is justice according to these Scriptures? How do they challenge our culture's understanding of justice?
4. God's 'shalom' is the state of perfect relationship between God, people, and all of creation. What does shalom look like according to these Scriptures? What role does justice play in establishing shalom?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. **How do we balance advocating for justice while demonstrating love and forgiveness towards those who have caused harm? How does Jesus' work on the cross show you and others justice, mercy and love?**
6. How does our hope in God's ultimate plan for restoration motivate us to continue working towards justice in our daily lives?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

In the video, Paul Brandt mentioned the 'bystander effect'. It is one thing to 'know' something should be done, and another to have it impact our hearts and take action. Ask God to show you where he may be stirring you to pursue justice and how.

THE WORD (NIV)

Deuteronomy 32:4

**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.**

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Micah 6:8

**He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.**

Matthew 7:12

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

Deuteronomy 10:18-19

¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein, Jared Harrison