

Cell Notes Micah 6:6-8

Start of new series on Justice, Environment, and Sustainability –

God is a God of justice, and we live in God's world, so the concerns of the environment and sustainability are his concerns too. This is not new teaching – we're catching up.

You need Justice

Justice is central to our life – from the child saying – “it's not fair!” up to the highest courts in the land. We're born with a sense of justice as children of God – and rely on it as children of our culture and society.

You need justice – you only have to look around the world at countries which lack justice to see the problems of corruption, suspicion, fear, violence, waste, Without justice there is a breakdown in trust, and in people there's lethargy, exasperation and hopelessness.

You need justice. Justice brings hope, and fairness, aspiration, generosity, order, harmony, mutuality – the Bible has a word for it – Shalom – peace, love, security.

Your God is a God of Justice.

If you do a word search, or even read with an ear for this value – you can't miss it!

It's in every breath, every thread of the tapestry – when kings are crowned, in the songs of the psalmist – on the parched lips of Job, in the cry of the prophets, and in the meaning of the cross.

It is God's justice that compelled Jesus to die for us. To pay for our sinfulness. The just penalty. And of course the just forgiveness, freedom, peace follows...

Sometimes people doubt that they are forgiven. God's love. It is easily done. But fundamentally this is about the justice of God. Do you believe God is just? If so those who turn to him, believe and receive him – are forgiven. Because God is a God of justice.

Why do I need to say this? Well, because it's constantly questioned in our day. Why would God allow this or that. How could some people end up in hell? What about people who are not healed? As if they know more about right and wrong! And as this happens people elevate themselves and denigrate Him. The Bible talks about the pot telling the potter what shape it should be!

You are called to act justly

What does God want? How can I please him? How can I honour him? How should I live?

He has showed you, ...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.

Justice, mercy and humility. So wonderful and refreshing to receive, and often so difficult to live up to.

How do we do this? Start little, with everything, and everybody, and don't stop...

Act justly and you will point to the God of justice. He will be seen in you. And you will know he lives in you.

Questions:

Do you have a memory of being treated unjustly, and another when justice was done?

Where there is a lack of justice in communities so much breaks down. Do people have examples?

Do you know passages/stories in the Bible where God's justice is demonstrated? What do they teach us?

The justice of God is more and more questioned today. It is not bad to ask questions, but how do you answer people who question that God is a God of justice?

The justice of the cross. Discuss.

Acting justly. I suggest we start with small things and don't stop. What is the impact in everyday life? Give examples.

Reminder:

Alpha – who are you asking?

29th September 7.30pm CPC Steven Redman – this is for all church members to come to – even if they don't bring someone with them – (But fab if they can!) Please indicate how your cell can help with Cakes, cookies and candies...