



NEW JUSTICE

Nehemiah 5

Let the one who boasts, boast about this: that he understands and knows me that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness on earth. For in these things I delight.

Jeremiah 9:24

Biblical justice affirms our common humanity (vv. 1-5)

Biblical justice hears the cry of the poor and needy (v. 6)

Biblical justice is grounded in God's righteous standards (vv. 7-10)

Biblical justice aims for real transformation (vv. 11-13)

Biblical justice loves mercy (vv. 14-19)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Meditate on some of the verses referenced today: Psalm 33:5, Jeremiah 9:23-24, Proverbs 21:3, Isaiah 1:17, Jeremiah 22:15-16, Leviticus 24:22, Acts 17:26, James 3:9-10, Exodus 22:25, Deuteronomy 24:10-13, Habakkuk 1:7.
- Meditate on Job 31:16-23, Psalm 146:6-9, Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Amos 5, Isaiah 58.

- Read Tim Keller's article on justice: <https://quarterly.gospelinlife.com/a-biblical-critique-of-secular-justice-and-critical-theory/>
- Listen to "God of Justice" by Tim Hughes: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TCh31xg4vA
- Watch "Isaiah 58 – the Fast God Chooses" by Tony Evans - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWskQqd82E

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. Read Nehemiah 5:1-5. How do you think this situation developed in the midst of such a good work to rebuild the wall?
3. Read Nehemiah 5:6. What insights about righteous anger stood out to you from the Scriptures today? (Consider Mark 3:5, Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:19-20)
4. Share about an experience you have had when you have felt righteous anger? Were you able to control the anger and do anything to make a difference for others? How do you know the anger was indeed righteous?
5. How do we celebrate and stand in our shared humanity while also acknowledging and learning from our different experiences in life in ways that honor the Lord?
6. Nehemiah acted consistently with God's law because biblical justice is grounded in God's righteous standards. Why is this such an important point about justice? Consider Habakkuk 1:7 once again.
7. Where do you see yourself in this story? Have you suffered from injustice and are crying out? Have you been guilty of mistreating others and have not been aware of it? Or are you positioned as a Nehemiah who can make a difference? Share about this and what it means you should do.
8. Read Romans 3:21-26. Do you believe that you have been justified (made righteous) through faith in Christ? Why or why not?
9. Read Psalm 89:14-18 and Psalm 97:1-6 and Isaiah 9:6-7. If justice and righteousness are the foundation of the Lord's throne, what can we look forward to in his future kingdom? What about his future kingdom most excites you in this way?
10. Share how you can be praying for one another and pray for those experiencing injustice of any kind in our world today.