

Justice

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

John 3:16-21; 5:22-27; 12:44-50

I. Introduction

a. Stories and Eucatastrophy

II. Recognize: The Longing for Justice runs through humanity

a. The Instinct Runs Deep

b. God

III. Affirm: The God revealed through Jesus Christ is a God of Justice

a. In God, justice and mercy kiss (Psalm 85:10)

b. John 3:16-21

c. John 5:22-27

d. Love is committed to setting things Right!

IV. Admit: We humans can't find true Justice apart from God

a. Alasdair MacIntyre, *Whose Justice, Which Rationality*

V. Following the Just One (Jesus Christ)

a. Jesus identifies our true Enemy: John 12:44-50

b. Jesus Stands with the Accused: John 18-19

c. Jesus brings Justice now through His Spirit-filled people: John 16:8-11

VI. Conclusion

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. What is your favorite type of story or genre of literature?
2. How has the issue of justice or injustice shaped your life?

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Read John 3:16-21. What is the light of verse 19? Why do some people love darkness? How is it possible for people who love the darkness to be saved?
2. Why can't humans agree on what true justice looks like?
3. Why is it good news that God cares about justice?
4. Between His first coming and His second coming, Jesus isn't trying to render a verdict of judgment, he is trying to save people from judgment. How does this simple truth inform the way you are living and following Jesus right now?
5. Justice is participatory. Justice is not something we are supposed to wait for but in the power of the Holy Spirit it is what we are supposed to work towards. What are activities or commitments you have made that help move the world towards what is right and good?
6. Since we don't all agree on justice in every detail, how should Christians who are committed to justice seek to interact and engage with non-Christians who are also trying to work for justice?
7. What dangers are involved when we too closely associate one political party, one economic system, or one secular ideology with the Christian faith?
8. How did God speak to you through the message?
9. How can we pray for one another?