

“Liberty and Justice for All”

The Definition Paradox

Amos 5:24; Isaiah 59

A Weight and Challenge

Refresher

1. Justice is at the very heart of who God is and what he desires.
2. Justice, as our pursuit, begins in a transformed heart.
3. The Secular or Sacred Paradox
4. The necessary connection between liberty, justice and responsibility.
5. Manipulation Paradox

Metaphors On Justice

Opening statement -- *“No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.”*

- There was a general lack of integrity
- There was a pretext of substance but a reality of meaninglessness
- There was a reliance on falsification
- There was an underlying intent to disrupt and deceive.
- There was an underlying malevolent intent.

Closing statement -- “The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.”

This closing statement is important for three reasons.

First, it tells us the perspective from which we must understand justice.

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This closing statement is important for three reasons.

First, it tells us the perspective from which we must understand justice.

Second, there is displeasure with the way justice has been administered.

Third, there is an underlying implication in this statement -- It is not just an indication of God’s displeasure but a harbinger of divine judgment.

Metaphors

Spiders and Snakes

Crooked Paths
Groping In Darkness
Uproar and Mourning
Limited Access

Whose Justice?

The Contenders

Libertarian – justice is about freedom.
Liberal – justice is about fairness.
Utilitarian – justice is about happiness.
Postmodern – Justice is about power.

God's Justice

- It is objectively based in the righteousness and love of God
- It insists on equality of personhood which in turn insists on equal treatment under law.
- It assumes individual willingness for self-limitation and personal restraint.
- It assumes advocacy for those who are disadvantaged.
- It is corporate or societal
- It is individual in its responsibilities and implementation.

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