

## Compass Church East “God and Justice” Week 7: April 18, 2021

### What we learned today summary

- 1) Early church Father John Chrysostom said; ***“Let all the things which you undertake and accomplish have this root and foundation, namely, that they tend to the glory of God.”***

| WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS                | <i>Text any questions you have to: 306-500-4847</i>   |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                    | <b>Biblical Social Justice</b>  | <b>Ideological Social Justice</b>   |
| <b>Who has ultimate authority?</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Bible is very clear: Ultimate authority resides with God and His revealed Word in Scripture. (Philippians 2:6-11)</li> <li>▪ Power and authority exist to maintain order, a necessary precondition for human flourishing, and to <b>serve</b> those under authority for their own benefit.</li> <li>▪ The Christian perspective looks down the ladder. Our normal tendency is to scramble up ladders as fast as possible. The disciple of Jesus works to serve the powerless at the bottom.</li> <li>▪ Throughout Jesus ministry He demonstrated that ultimate power and authority are combined with humility and sacrificial service. Mark 10:35-45</li> <li>▪ In the bible power and authority are not intrinsically negative. They are actually sources of great good when they are used to <b>serve</b> and benefit those under authority. They're only viewed negatively in light of human sinfulness, when they are abused for selfish, destructive ends.</li> <li>▪ God’s power and authority is what gives everything that exists its unique power and authority. Hebrews 1:3</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In ISJ authority is conferred not by wisdom, age or position but by “victim status”.</li> <li>▪ In the ISJ worldview subjective “lived experience” should never be challenged or questioned. In fact, to question or challenge “lived experience” in anyway makes <b>you</b> the oppressor. To embrace this claim leads to serious problems.</li> <li>▪ Using the lived experiences of the oppressed to push noble sounding visions of social justice and insulate those visions from factual criticisms is not compassionate. It is cruel to the oppressed. It exploits their pain. It adds to their number.</li> <li>▪ We can’t allow ‘lived experience’ to take precedence over Scripture or objective evidence.</li> <li>▪ The goal of the social justice revolution is to dismantle oppressive structures and transfer power and authority to victims. Victims only win when oppressors lose. That's how it works.</li> </ul> |

Jesus shows us a very different way. Jesus calls us to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39) and, in genuine love, to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things (see 1 Corinthians 13:7). We are to "forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). Rather than holding onto grievances in order to claim victim status, we are to keep "no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:5), and even to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).

*Raised in a Christian home, I knew the gospel years before I wanted it. I wanted life on my own terms; I wanted love I could deserve. By the time started college, had all but "deleted" God from my life. I chased the mirage of love through fraternity houses, down bottles of liquor, and into the beds of strangers. Soon was empty, afraid, and aching. I made new friends who had a "solution" to my pain: fighting injustice with anger. I learned that all men are predators, that religion is oppressive, and that "truth" and "morality" are only constructs. If just converted fear into anger and rejected all these institutions, I would be free.*

*What I didn't know is that when you choose an anger-fueled life, you choose a fear-controlled life. feared men and anticipated abuse constantly. I saw social injustice everywhere, and it appeared to be winning.*

*And scariest of all, didn't know where to find my self-worth. If morality didn't exist, how could I ever hope to be "good"? After two years of living this way, was a mess. I desperately needed to recalibrate and decided to take a year off from school.*

*I took an internship with an anti-sex-trafficking organization in Germany. I tolerated that it was a Christian organization. I wanted to be enough to save these women but was no match for this evil-women sold for consumption, men addicted to dehumanizing abuse, and pimps using sex as a weapon. Absolute evil really did exist, and was looking at it. How were my Christian coworkers not drowning in this darkness as I was? In that stillness, I heard a a whisper. It said this darkness wasn't the end of the story, that without a good God, this would be all there was, but God cannot be deleted. I remembered Jesus and how his promises to heal this world finally made sense. And so, on a cold spring morning, I walked outside and cried out to him. The heart transformation was immediate: God released me from anger and fear. Years of shame slid off me and I was clean. While I was still a a sinner, Christ died to purchase my heart, and I was made whole.*

*I transferred to Biola University to pursue God. I had no idea of the pain that awaited me in California. A week after moving, I ventured off campus to go dancing in LA with my new roommates. A group of young men drugged me and gang-raped me until five in the morning. When I woke up, there was no denying the black bruises covering my body or the flashbacks of cruel violence. I told my roommate, who sobbed with me and went with me to the police station.*

*As we drove to the station, I expected to feel hopeless, dirtied, and lost. Instead, I felt perfect peace. My Father was holding me in his arms, and I could feel it. I played "In Christ Alone," singing and worshiping God with deep joy. I can't put into words how deeply I understood his love that day. Though I could never earn his love, he pours it into my heart. I am his precious, beloved daughter; no evil could ever change that. Even through horrible flashbacks and anxiety attacks, I stand firm in this confidence. The final chapter of my story is already written and waits for me; it ends with me running into the Father's open arms. No power of hell or scheme of man could ever pluck me from his hand.*

*I have a new heart, one that sees every human as a precious creation of God's love. I do not hate anyone, not even my rapists. I know those men are responsible for their wrongs, but I also know God longs for their hearts as recklessly as he longed for mine. Jesus paid my full debt on the cross, and anyone who turns to Jesus has theirs paid too. I still care deeply about justice for victims of sexual violence, now more than ever. However, I no longer use hatred and fear as fuel for revenge. Instead, draw on God's perfect love for restoration. Fear can't drive out fear, nor hate drive out hate, only love can do that. And God's love can and will heal the pains of this world a thousand times over, just as it healed mine.*

*-Bella Danusiar; Bella is a student at Biola University and is currently training for lifelong gospel ministry and justice work.*