

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Helping the Hurting

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
February 12, 2023



What is true justice & how do we respond to injustice as the Church?

- **God is a God of righteousness and justice.**

Psalm 89:14 (NLT) "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants."

- **Righteousness is about living faithfully in each of our relationships, especially with God.**

- **Justice is about setting things right when relationships haven't been lived out faithfully.**

"God's royal dignity rests on his holiness expressed in principle (righteousness) and practice (justice); and everything he does is heralded by love and faithfulness." D.A. Carson

- **Justice is about righteous restoration.**

Luke 4:18-19 (NLT) "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord's favour has come."

"Justice and justification are joined at the hip." Tim Keller

Colossians 1:20 (NLT) "...and through him [Christ] God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

2 Corinthians 5:21(NIV) "God made him [Christ] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- **Failing to love God leads to idolatry, while failing to love others leads to injustice.**

- **The Body of Christ is meant to be the enactment of God's love & justice in the world.**

"Justice is what love looks like in public." Cornel West

- **Seeking justice requires courage and humility.**

Big Idea: Let's seek our loving & just God, as we fight injustice with Christ's love.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Helping the Hurting
#1 of 4 - February 12, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about “running our race” from Hebrews 12:1-13. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week about the importance of staying focused on Jesus as you journey through life? What action steps did you take to prioritize this?
- 2) In what ways have you seen or experienced injustice? Keep this in mind as you approach Scripture asking God to speak to you.
- 3) Read Psalm 89:1-18. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What’s the theme of this chapter, or passage? What’s the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages? What is the foundation of God’s throne in v. 14.
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ? What is righteousness and justice? How are they connected and how are they different? What is the connection to God’s unfailing love and truth?
- 6) Read Luke 4:18-19 & Isaiah 61:1-9. What do we learn about Christ’s purpose in these passages? How is this connected to righteousness and justice? What is our role in this as the people of God?
- 7) Read Colossians 1:20 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does Jesus fulfill righteousness and justice?
- 8) **Application:** Discuss the statement: “The Body of Christ is meant to be the enactment_of God’s love & justice in the world.” What are the implications for us as it relates to fighting injustice?
- 9) How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you & your IC to take in light of this teaching?



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