

A Christian Response to Injustice

Two Injunctions to Remember when Facing Injustices

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. Was there a moment where God spoke to you, showed you something new, or reminded you of a familiar truth through the message this week?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- Submission isn't a subject that gets a lot of press in a culture that promotes individualism and personal sovereignty, and yet it's a major theme in the Bible. We're taught in the Bible to submit to God, to submit to one another, to submit in marriage, to submit to spiritual leaders, to submit to the government, and to submit to masters over us...even our mean bosses! Let's discuss a few ways that popular thinking in the culture is contrary to the teaching of the Bible on this subject, and let's get real honest about how those values can compete in a Believer's life with living like God wants us to.
- We learned that Christians should act like Christians even when they don't feel like it. There are certainly times when our first instincts are to react according to our feelings, emotions, and will of self...but our will isn't always the will of God. The Bible says that a believer shouldn't live to please the flesh, but should walk daily in the Spirit. How do we tell the difference between the soulish desires of our flesh and godliness that comes through walking in the Spirit?
- Peter wrote that one of the callings of God for every Christian is to show reverence and respect to masters who are over us, when they are kind, or even if they are harsh towards us. Of course we can respond to injustices, and we should, but a Christian's response should be reverent and righteous. What would you say to a Christian whose response to a perceived injustice was rioting, revolt, violence, destruction, vandalism, or anarchy?
- The example of Jesus is one of facing injustice with godliness. His example should inform our response to injustices in our own life and culture. When Jesus was faced with the injustice of the cross, He didn't sin, didn't demonize His accusers, didn't respond to abuse and violence with retaliation, and didn't threaten those who abused Him. Instead, He committed Himself to God and trusted God with the situation. Through it all, God had a bigger purpose in His injustice that resulted in the salvation of the world. How important is it to respond like Christ when we're facing injustices, and to remember that God may be doing something bigger than we can see at the moment?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Isaiah 53:1-8
- Mark 15:4-15
- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 1:17

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

1. As we've been studying this passage, has the Lord shown you an area where you need to take a new direction or make a course correction? Could the Lord be speaking to you in the area of submission, or in resisting the urges of our flesh to lash out when faced with injustices, or to more closely follow the example of Jesus Christ? Why not take a moment and let the Holy Spirit guide you in the one or two areas where He's speaking to you?
2. Over the past few years we've seen quite a bit of rioting, protests that have turned violent, vandalism in anger, and things like these. It's clear that we have some things to work on in our nation. What would be a few healthy ways that Christians could engage some of these issues in a healthy and godly way?