

STEPPING INTO THE MISERY & MARGINS



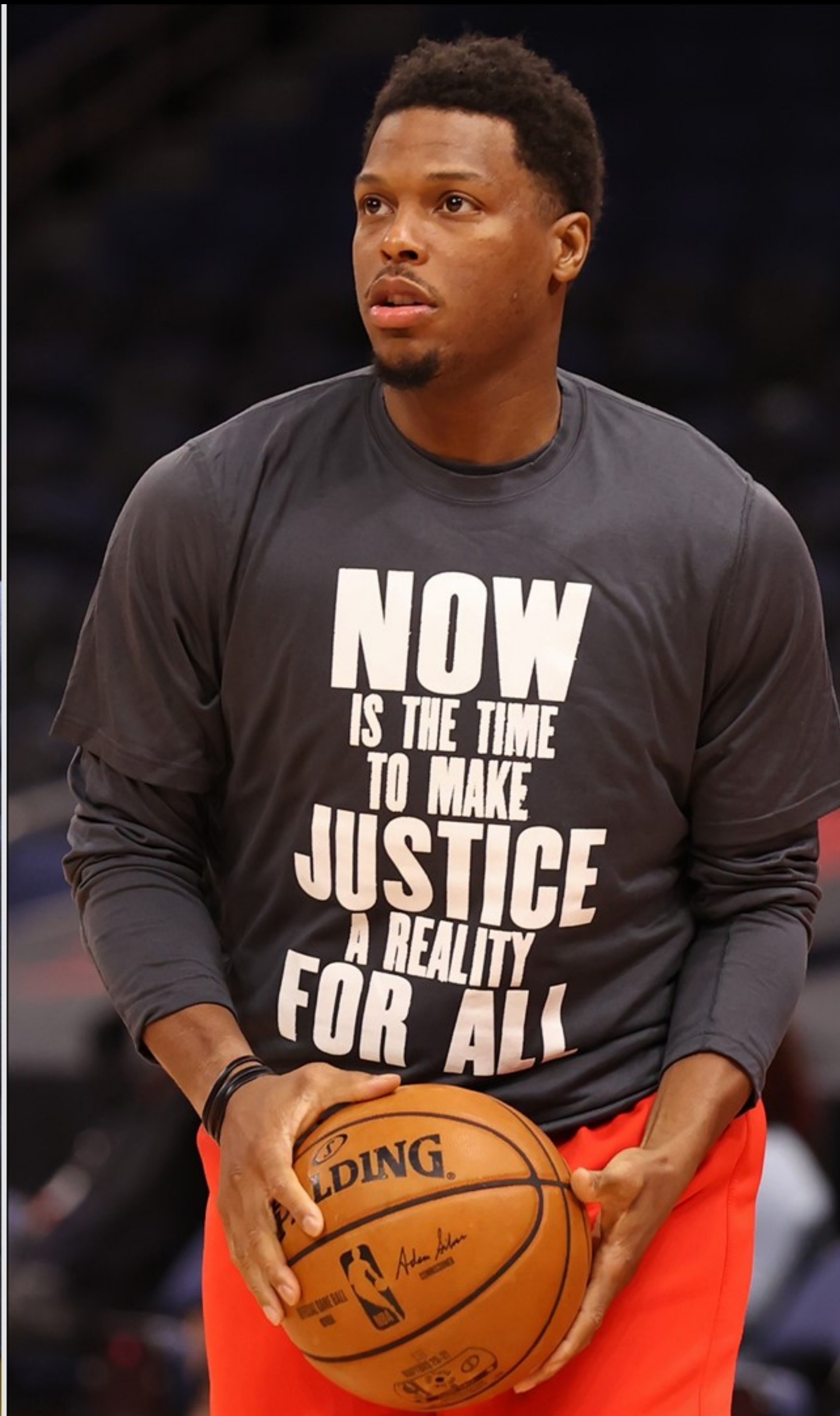
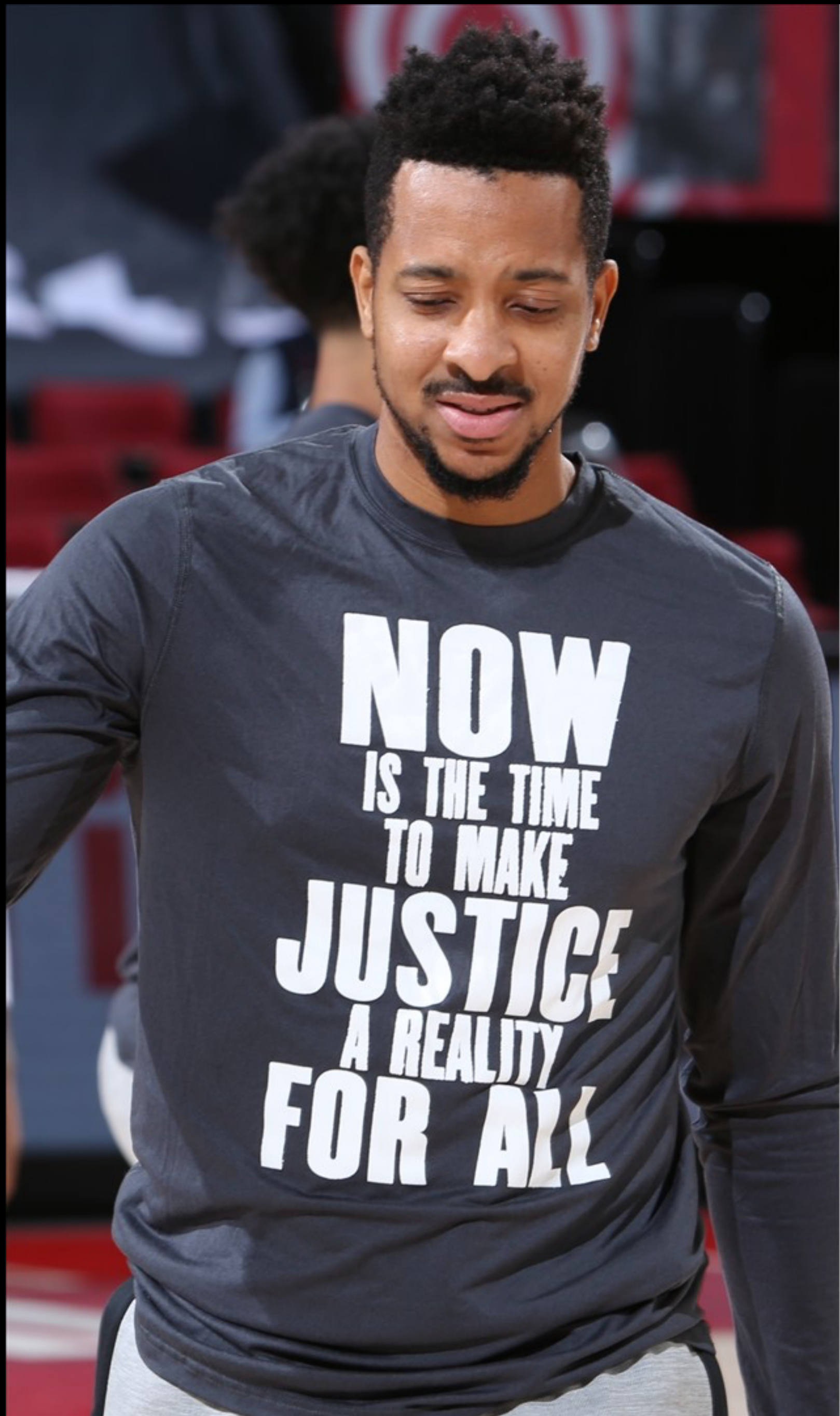
Stepping Into Biblical Justice

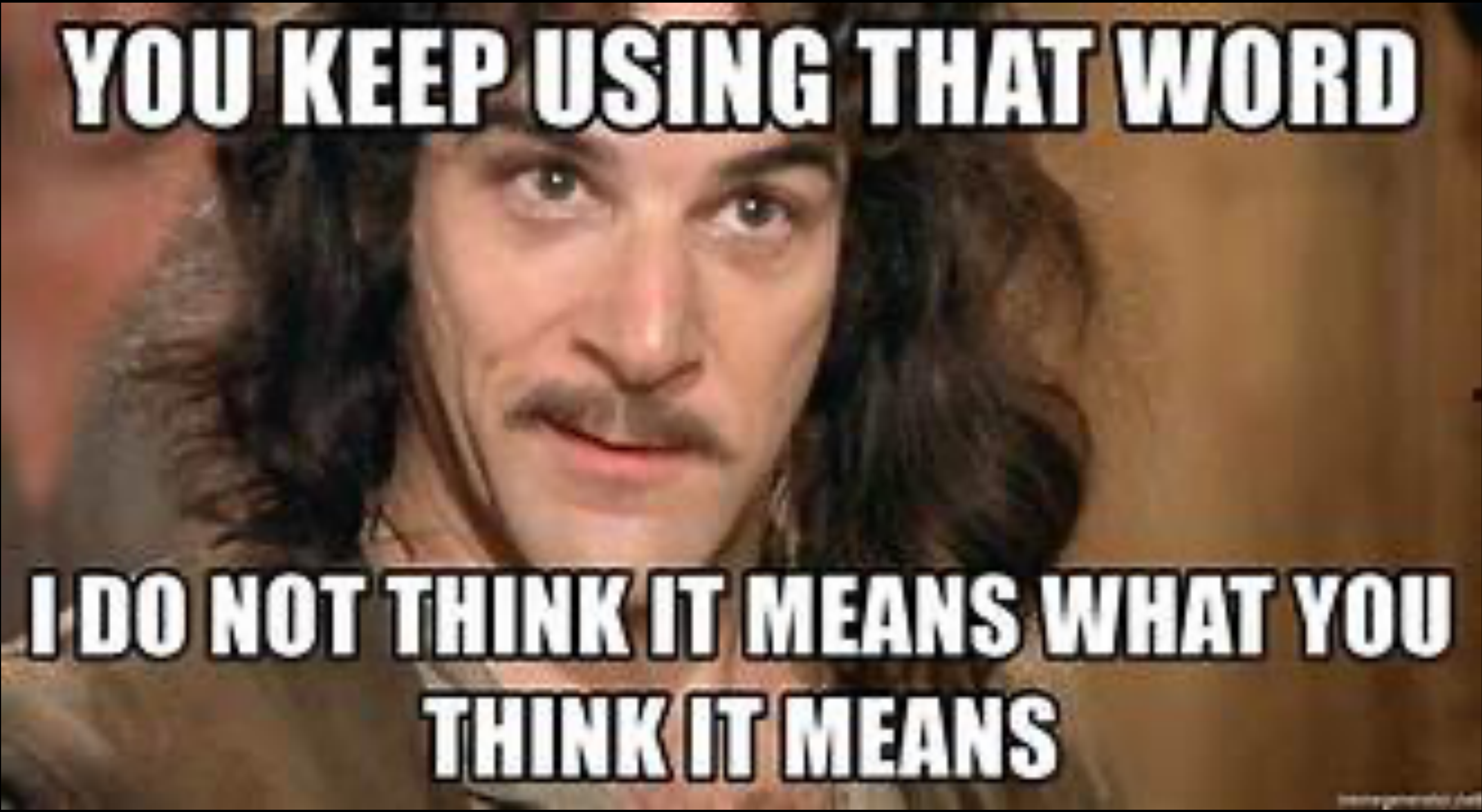
PSALM 89:14

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

PSALM 33:5

The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love.





YOU KEEP USING THAT WORD

**I DO NOT THINK IT MEANS WHAT YOU
THINK IT MEANS**

**When you think of
the word “injustice”,
what comes to mind?**

Injustice:

Unfair treatment, a situation in which the rights of a person or a group of people are ignored.

**Where does our definition
of “unfair” or “rights”
come from?**

Why is Hitler's moral sense worse than your moral sense?

Objective Morality:

There are moral truths that exist beyond anybody's own individual preferences, beliefs, or opinions.

Subjective Morality:
There are moral truths and ethics that are defined by the individual or the society at large.

Pinocchio wanted to go to Pleasure Island. Jiminy Cricket tried to stop him, but Pinocchio went anyhow.

“See! I’ve already made a friend—Lampwick,” he told Jiminy. “We’re going to have fun together!”



Pleasure Island:

A place with "no school, no cops" and it's all free. Free booze, free smokes, free property destruction, free ice cream, a fight club, and any old thing a young juvenile delinquent might want, per 1940s movie standards.

JOB 11:14 ESV

If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away,
and let not injustice dwell in your tents.

PSALM 64:6 ESV

They search out injustice, saying,
“We have accomplished a diligent search.”

Injustice (אַבֶּל) *av-vawl*:
To be wicked, evil, unfair,
oppressive and missing
the mark of what is right.

ROMANS 9:14 ESV

What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part?
By no means!

**Injustice (*Ἄδικία*) *ad-ee-kee'-ah*:
To violate Gods standard,
to show evil or wickedness.**

ISAIAH 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil,
who put darkness for light and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness.

**So if you don't have a
baseline for a definition of evil,
you will never have a
baseline for justice.**

If you don't have a clear idea of what evil and righteousness are, you may actually end up defending evil in the name of justice and defeating good in the name of injustice.

“A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

– C.S. Lewis

So What Is Evil?

“Evil is always defined in the Bible with reference to willing in regard to God. God is the supreme value in the universe, and therefore, evil is defined with reference to this ultimate reality, ultimate value, ultimate treasure.”

– John Piper

Anything that Goes against:

God's Essence

God's Values

God's Intentions

God's Love

“Social justice generally refers to the idea of creating an egalitarian society or institution that is based on the principles of equality and solidarity, that understands and values human rights, and that recognizes the dignity of every human being.”

– Education and Social Justice, J. Zajda, S. Majhanovich

**Biblical justice is based on
the eternal fixed standard of
goodness and rightness
found in the character of God.**

**Biblical justice demands
the truth; when truth dies,
justice is buried with it.**

“Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine whether a law is just or unjust? A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas: An unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.”

– Letter from Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr.

“One may well ask: ‘How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?’ The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that ‘an unjust law is no law at all.’”

– Letter from Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King Jr.

Today's social justice movement is unjust because it has separated itself from the truth of God's Word.

Revolution (destabilization) - God = Utopia
Restoration (deescalation) + God = Kingdom

**Revolutionary tears down.
Restoration builds up.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE VS BIBLICAL JUSTICE

Subjective Morality

Victim Identity

Spirit of offense

Revolution

Man-Centric

Demonizing

Imposing

Demanding

Secular Inspiration

Objective Morality

Victor Identity

Spirit of Forgiveness

Restoration

Jesus-Centric

Recognizing

Offering

Sacrificial

Spirit Inspiration

**The most effective, biblical
response to the social justice
movement is to offer a better
alternative!**

**BECAUSE IT'S
GOD'S HEART**

JEREMIAH 9:24

But let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the Lord.

ISAIAH 61:8

For I, the Lord, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.

LUKE 4:18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

**Biblical Justice is a gateway
to intimacy with God.**

**A church that is aligned
with the heart of God will
be a church that experiences
the presence of God.**

**We oftentimes have respect for
Jesus but not a response to Jesus.**

**We have admiration for Jesus but
we don't have aspirations for Jesus.**

Admiration - Aspiration = Consideration
Admiration + Aspiration = Expectation

**BECAUSE WE
ARE CALLED TO IT**

MICAH 6:8 NKJV

He has shown you, o man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you God?

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4-8 ESV

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**The world takes notice
when Jesus followers die to
themselves and put the needs
of others before themselves.**

**BECAUSE IT
TRANSFORMS US**

Biblical justice and compassion work is vital, not just for the transformation of our broken world but for the transformation of our own hearts and narcissistic tendencies.

**“Somewhere around the world,
someone would love to have
my first world problems.”**

– Matthew Good Band

**BECAUSE WE CARRY
THE SOLUTION**

There is the compassion side of Biblical justice and there is the restorative side of Biblical justice.

Retributive justice is not the same as revenge justice. Revenge serves hatred, not justice.

Restorative Justice:
To seek reconciliation and
repairing of relational offenses.

MATTHEW 5:16 MSG

Be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

COLOSSIANS 1:19-22

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

**A non forgiving culture is
based in an offended culture.**

**The greatest virtue in a
cancel culture is victimhood.**

**Victimhood culture creates
“competitive victimhood.”**

“The intrinsic need to compete over victimhood is perhaps one of the greatest inhibitors of reconciliation processes.”

– Luca Andrighetto

**There is a difference between
carrying an offense and
covering an injustice.**

1. Peacemakers are love-driven over hate-driven.
2. Peacemakers are not passive people but pursue people.
3. Peacemakers are spirit-responsive over flesh-reactive.
4. Peacemakers are committed to truth-telling and truth hearing.
5. Peacemakers remove specks before swinging logs.
6. Peacemakers associate with those they disagree with
7. Peacemakers are about winning the person more than winning the argument.
8. Peacemakers absorb, not just observe.
9. Peacemakers pursue healing over hostility.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What injustices or evil are you witnessing in your world?**
- 2. Why is counterfeit justice potentially dangerous for our world?**
- 3. How have you experienced closeness to God by stepping into the hardship of others?**
- 4. How does forgiveness help in restorative justice?**
- 5. In what ways can you practice being a peacemaker in your life?**

