

Jesus, Justice & the Third Way (3 of 6) Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, October 20th, 2024



Series Focus: In *Jesus, Justice & the Third Way*, we are reflecting on the political nature of the gospel and how we are called to pledge allegiance to the Lamb—not the donkey or the elephant. We are examining Jesus’ posture and approach to political matters and seeing how he dealt with political parties, hot-button issues, and the “partisan mind” that fuels division. Join us for this timely sermon series as we consider what it looks like to follow the Lamb in an age of idolatry and division, so that we might be faithful to Christ until he returns and brings the fullness of his Kingdom on the earth.

Sermon Title: Jesus and the Justice of God

Scripture Reading: Psalm 36:5-7; Micah 6:8; Matthew 12:15-21; Luke 4:14-21

Sermon Focus: We can see in the gospels that Jesus cared deeply about justice. In fact, Jesus furthered an ancient vision of God’s justice for *all* nations. But this “justice” often looks much different than the way the world defines and imagines it. In the third message of our series, Pastor David helps us see that if we’re going to “act *justly*, love mercy, and walk humbly” with God in the Third Way of Jesus, then we first must be captured and committed to his unique Kingdom vision for setting the world to rights.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read the following Scriptures together from the OT prophets: Isaiah 1:13-17, 42:1-4; Jeremiah 23:5; Micah 4:2-4, 6:8; Amos 5:21-24. What is the common thread in all these passages? What do these prophets say about God's justice?
2. Read Matthew 12:15-21 and then Luke 4:14-21. Have you considered how Jesus came furthering an ancient vision of God's justice on the earth? What is God saying to you through this portrait of Jesus as a bringer of justice?
3. Did you notice that Jesus stopped in the middle of a verse when quoting Isaiah in Luke 4:19 (see Isaiah 61:1-2)? He didn't read about God's vengeance. Could Jesus be fully revealing what God is like in his intentional use of Scripture? Why is this significant when it comes to understanding God and his Jesus-like justice?
4. In Luke 4:24-30, Jesus is clear that God's mercy and grace are to be extended to all people in his justice. This infuriated the Jewish folks in Nazareth that day! Derwin Gray wrote: "*Justice without Jesus is vengeance. God's mercy is for the oppressor and the oppressed*" (*God, Do You Hear Me?* pg.72). What might the implications be for how we do justice as Christians today?
5. Pastor David said that real Jesus-centered churches that are focused on discipleship will *naturally* act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. But "justice-centered" churches will use Jesus to champion their social-justice causes, and that usually leads to whatever power-over method it takes to win. It also likely means adopting the "partisan mind" in our pursuit of justice. And when Christ-likeness and spiritual formation are no longer primary, justice then becomes the reason for gathering, which ultimately leads to disaster. Do you agree? If so, how have you seen this happen to individuals and churches?
6. Read Revelation 2:1-7. The church in Ephesus was doing good things, but they were in danger of losing their light and witness because something had replaced Jesus as the center of their church. They had forsaken their first love (v.4). What do you think it looks like when Jesus is central and supreme in a person's life? And what does it look like in the life of a church? How is Grantham doing?
7. How is God calling you be *present* with others in the injustice they experience? Once everyone has shared, end in prayer for these people and situations.