

# Life Application Notes

Week beginning 16th November 2020

## Looking for Justice

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### Opening Up

**What does justice look like to you?** Has anyone in your group watched The People vs. O.J. Simpson, Broadchurch series 2, Sully: Miracle on the Hudson, or another TV program or film based in court? Feel free to steer relaxed conversation about this around the theme of justice. **How does this portrayal of justice affect our initial perception of how justice should be done?**

### Digging In

#### God is not ok with injustice

**Read Jonah 3:1-5**

**If God is not ok with injustice, what did he do about it here?** In this passage he sends Jonah! Jonah is appointed by God to bring His message of the necessity of repentance to the people of Nineveh, this city full of injustice.

**If God is not ok with injustice, what is he doing about it now?** He has appointed us, the local church, to call out against injustice. He has given us His heart and Spirit (see Ezekiel 36:26). To half-quote Bill Hybels, "The local church is the hope of the world" [quote ends "...and its future rests primarily in the hands of its leaders"]. God has appointed us to do something about it.

#### What should justice look like?

**What do you believe justice should look like in our world?** Is it anything like what we see in media? Do you think that we see the right justice for the wrongs in the world?

Jonah preaches the message that the wrongs we do will have justice in the end - God holds everyone to account at the end. **How does that make you feel about what justice people should face now?**

**How important to the message of Christianity is the idea that judgement is coming for those that do not repent?** No matter how uncomfortable seeing a street preacher calling for people to repent makes us, only those that repent get to be with God eternally in heaven. This is why the gospel is Good News.

#### How is justice achieved?

For those that do not repent, hell awaits. This is far too big a topic to get into tonight.

The Bible is full of people who sin, and then come back to God's grace. One of the easiest examples is Saul's transformation to become Paul. He initially persecuted Christians and would have been responsible for many deaths, yet God used him to transform the lives of uncounted more.

**Read Jonah 3:10:** "When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it". **How do you feel, knowing that those who have committed the most heinous crimes can be assured of the same joyful eternity as you, even if they only renounce their sins with their dying breath?**

**How does God achieve justice for the sins of those who repent?** Through the sacrifice of His son. In order to wipe our slates clean, the sins needed to be allocated to the one who never sinned. Jesus had to die because God requires justice for the sins we commit.

## Rounding Off

**Listen to [How Deep the Father's Love for Us](#).** Take time in prayer praising God for our salvation and the mercy we have been shown even as God ensures justice.

Take some time for corporate prayer in your Life Groups. Spend time praying for each others' needs and the points Si listed on Sunday:

- For Christians to rise up and be the salt and light in the world. Not ones and twos reaching thousands but thousands reaching ones and twos.
- Pray for the people of Life Church and Southampton that are facing tough times financially and emotionally.
- Acquisition of 11 Cranbury Terrace and the sale of The Life Centre.