



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Ben Adkison // Sunday: March 26, 2023

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) If you had to define “justice” according to the Bible, what would you say it is? What Scripture passages would back up your definition?
- 3) Read Proverbs 2:1-9; Proverbs 8:8; Proverbs 8:15-16; Proverbs 17:23; Proverbs 21:3; and Proverbs 31:1-9 together.
- 4) What stuck out to you as you read these passages? Is there anything you didn’t understand? Is there anything you’d like to discuss?
- 5) In his book, *Generous Justice*, Tim Keller says this:

“Over and over again, *mishpat* [a Hebrew word for justice in the Bible] describes taking up the care and cause of widows, orphans, immigrants, and the poor—those who have been called “the quartet of the vulnerable.”<sup>1</sup>

How well do you think the church does in taking care of the quartet of the vulnerable?

- 6) Read Matthew 25:31-46 together.
- 7) One of the difficult things about caring for those in need is deciding when to minister and care for others and when not to. How do we know when God is leading us to step into a situation and help?
- 8) Read James 2:1-13 together.
- 9) What stuck out to you as you read these passages? Is there anything you didn’t understand? Is there anything you’d like to discuss?
- 10) What do you think this passage in James teaches us about justice?
- 11) In his book, *Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace*, Harvie Conn talks about the need of doing justice as a way of helping verify the claims of the gospel. He says:

“Those . . . in our church neighborhoods are not waiting for talk but for truth. They are waiting for the good news God speaks in Isaiah 58. “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter . . . ? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and . . . your righteousness will go before you” (Isaiah 58:6-8.”<sup>2</sup>

In what areas do you think the church most needs to demonstrate justice in order to open a door for more effective evangelism?

- 12) Is there anything you’re planning right now in your life? Share with the group and pray about these things together.

<sup>1</sup> Timothy Keller, Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just, 1st ed. (New York: Dutton, 2010), 4.

<sup>2</sup> Harvie Conn, Evangelism: Doing Justice and Preaching Grace, 49.