

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 4th October 2020
Sermon Title: A family devoted to: justice
Bible Passage: Genesis 2: 26 - 31

Recapping the Preach

Read Genesis 1: 26 - 31 from various translations in the group.

- What stood out to from either of these passages?

We are beginning a three part series focusing on being a family devoted to justice and Stu mentioned that although the Scriptures will have wide application, we will make specific reference to the sin of racism and racial injustice.

- Take a few moments to share your understanding of racism as an issue in the world or perhaps your experience of racism. What questions do you have?
- Why do you think racism exists in the world?
- How do you think we, as a faith family, can bring change in this area?

Stu mentioned that he is convinced that in order to change culture we need to go all the way back to the beginning and start with God because *God shapes our character which transforms our leadership which influences culture*. So we begin with God who is just and righteous and His just and righteous act of making humankind in His image.

- Do you agree with the statement in italics? Can you think of examples in your life (or Scripture) where this has been true?
- What passages of Scripture do you know that speak about the righteousness and justice of God?
- If someone asked you, 'Why do Christians care about matters of justice?' how would you respond?

Reflecting on Genesis 1:26-27, Stu pointed out that the implication of being made in the image of God is that we belong to God, are worthy of dignity and respect and have equal rights before God.

- How should these verses inform our interaction with other people?
- When you meet people for the first time, how do you evaluate them or size them up? What is the starting point?

Stu applied the truth that God is righteous and just to our biblical worldview which falls into four parts: creation (God's righteous act is to create man in His image and declare it good), fall (humankind ignores God's righteous word and sin enters the world), redemption (God in love reaches out to broken humanity and Christ fulfils the righteous requirements of the law while upholding God's justice by dying in our place) and consummation (one day the righteous and just rule of God will be completed on Christs return). In between we live between the kingdom come and kingdom coming and it is here we do our work of seeking justice.

- The effect of the fall is far reaching: what other issues of justice arise from the fall?
- God has wired us each differently and so we may not always share a passion for the same areas of justice. Take a moment to share which ones God has burdened your heart with?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for racial reconciliation in our world.
- Pray for one another for a listening heart and spirit.
- Pray for other matters of injustice in our world that are on your heart.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>