

ULC Sermon Study Resource
As We Wait // Waiting for Justice
Pastor Gabe
December 4, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Tell a story of a time you broke the rules.

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10

Outline:

- I. The Problem of Justice
 - a. The problem of justice is that, so often, justice doesn't seem to be carried out how we think that it should. There are many things in our world that do not seem just.
 - b. God is not absent in the midst of our problems, but rather, he is at work.
Q: *What are some examples of injustice that we have experienced in our lives?*
- II. The Vision of Justice
 - a. God does not judge by human standards. He looks beyond appearances and judges with true justice. Jesus shows us what true justice looks like.
 - b. While we all long for justice, one of the reasons we have so much conflict in our culture right now is we do not have a shared vision of justice. We have competing visions of justice.
 - c. Jesus' vision of justice is rooted in his understanding of what human life is about, which is the goodness of God's creation. His justice is both restorative and retributive, working against what is standing in the way of God's image.
Q: *How does our interpretation of justice change when we frame it in God's image?*
- III. The Hope of Justice
 - a. The hope for true justice in this world must go through Jesus. We can recognize that God has done something about injustice because Jesus came and perfectly demonstrated true justice. And He was killed for it.
 - b. Through the cross, Jesus took the injustice at work in the world and the injustice at work inside of us. He took that into himself and rose again victoriously so that we might have hope that injustice doesn't have the final say.
Q: *How does Jesus' life demonstrate God's desire for justice in the world?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Do you struggle more with seeking restorative or retributive justice? Why?
- 2) When have competing visions of justice caused problems in your interpersonal life?
- 3) What are some injustices that are at work inside of us? How can we overcome them?
- 4) In what ways is it difficult to wait in hope for true justice to reign on Earth as it is in heaven?
- 5) How do justice and forgiveness relate to one another within our lives?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 12:17-19 **Q: *When is it difficult to release justice into the hands of God?***
- Proverbs 29:7 **Q: *How can we better seek justice for those less fortunate than ourselves?***

Closing Prayer:

Father God, we thank you that you are a God of justice, that you are not content letting evil and injustice reign. We know that one day you will bring your judgment down on the sins of the Earth. We give you thanks that one day we will live in eternity with you because Jesus took on our injustice. Teach us to wait with hope until that day comes. Amen.