

MICAH 6 : 8

ACT JUSTLY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Here in the UK, we have a strict sense of justice at times. For example, think about the strength of reaction to queue-jumping!

Do you think that our cultural understandings of right and wrong can at times stop us seeing situations as God would want us to?

PRAY

Pray as you start that, in church, God helps us not only to obey his law but the spirit of the law.



As we continue to think about this idea of justice, we are going to look at three short stories where Jesus challenges our preconceptions.

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Read: Matthew 12 : 9-14 - the man with the shrivelled hand

- What do you think the Pharisees had got wrong?
- How does Jesus help to correct their understanding?
- In what ways do you think we can still fall into this trap as believers?

For example, think of certain expectations we may have about what our church service should look like which can mean that we overlook the good that God is doing 'behind the scenes'.



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Read: Matthew 20 vv 1-16 - The parable of the workers in the vineyard

- What do you think this parable teaches us about God's sense of justice?
- What do we sometimes forget when we think God has been unfair? Look at **Psalm 33 : 11** and **Proverbs 8 : 14**.
- Do you think that we may be 'working in the vineyard' with certain expectations of God owing us something? How might this manifest itself?
- Do you think we sometimes 'work in the vineyard' with an understanding that we are earning something? How does grace counteract this? Look at **Ephesians 2 : 8 - 9**



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Read: Luke 18 :1-8 - The parable of the persistent widow

- What are the two characteristics of the judge **(v2)**?
- What did the widow want? Why do you think she persisted in asking such a man for this?
- What is the connection between knowledge of God and our prayers **(v7&8)**? Why is it so important to remember that our view of God affects how we pray?



How would you summarise what Jesus is teaching us about our God of justice? Can you think of other ways in which we can learn about God's justice plan as we consider Jesus?

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GOING DEEPER

ACT JUSTLY

The verb used in this part of **Micah 6 : 8** is **ACT**. We are not to just think justly, but to act.

If we want to be right with God, we need to also be just and fair in all that we do. What are some common ways that people in our society may cheat or fiddle the system? What about at home - how can we act justly in our relationships with our family and friends?



Of course, Christians are well known for acting with justice socially. Are you engaged with social justice on any level? Think about how Christian justice is more than just punishing wrong but wants to create a situation and society where everything is right, as we look forward to when Jesus returns.

How might you seek to act out your faith so that it is not just an action, but also something which is a glimpse of future shalom?

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LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

GOD OF JUSTICE
Tim Hughes



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TCh31xg4vA>

PRAY

Ask God to help you to continue to work out where you may hold an unconscious bias, towards others, or in the way you think about God.