



Part 4: Following Jesus – Doing Justice

Luke 14:1-14

Jesus calls us to share His compassion for the poor and vulnerable by sharing our lives with them.

I. Introduction

The last two weeks in this series, we have looked at God’s commands through the prophets Isaiah and Micah. Even a casual reading of the prophets reveals God’s major concern that His people live justly. Biblical justice includes three basic commitments:

- equal treatment for all
- special concern for those without power
- radical generosity

I can imagine someone saying, “That’s all from the Old Testament, so what relevance does that have for us today?” That is a question that requires a nuanced answer that would take more time than we have in this sermon. I will say that the New Testament makes clear that God’s moral commands in the Old Testament generally apply to Christians today. But for the sake of time, let’s just turn to Jesus.

Consider the following brief examples:

- While in His mother’s womb, Mary prophesied – *“He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.”* (Luke 1:52-53)
- Jesus refused to go along with the racism of His culture, making the hated Samaritan the hero of one of His parables (Luke 10:25-37) and touching off a riot, anything God loved Gentiles too (Luke 4:24-30).
- Jesus cared for the lepers who were considered outcasts in their culture (Mark 1:41).
- Jesus called His disciples to give to the poor and praised the poor for their generosity (Mark 12:42-43).

- Quoting Isaiah, Jesus declared that a fundamental part of His mission was to “preach good news to the poor” (Luke 4:18).

Jesus calls us to share His compassion for the poor and vulnerable by sharing our lives with them.

II. A Glimpse into Jesus’ Heart for Justice (Luke 14:1-14)

See Context: Luke 11:39-44

- A. God’s people are motivated by compassion for the suffering (Luke 14:1-6).
- B. God’s people are marked by humility, like the Son of God (Luke 14:7-11, Philippians 2:5-11).
- C. God’s people are motivated to radical generosity expressed (Luke 14:12-14).

*“One would almost think that Luke 14:12- 14 was not considered part of God’s Word, nor has any part of Jesus teaching been more neglected by his own people. I do not think it is unlawful to entertain our friends; but if these words do not teach us that it is in some respects our duty to give a preference to the poor, I am at a loss to understand them.”
John Newton*

“... to put this in a more modern context – he [Jesus] is saying that we should spend far more of our money and wealth on the poor than we do on our own entertainment, or on vacations, or on eating out and socializing with important peers.” Tim Keller, “Generous Justice”

Ex: Kraig Haynes – The Master’s Apprentice Program (Save Our Youth and Haynes University)

III. Conclusion - Sharing Our Power Like the Son of God (Philippians 2:5-11)