

4th SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY ~ January 29, 2012



BEHOLD HIS GLORY

“God Is Just”

Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 12:9-21

So far in this series of studies, we have looked at the glory of God, the holiness of God, and the grace of God. This week we turn our focus to the justice of God.

The prophet Isaiah had a lot to say about justice. His book opens with an indictment of God’s people, who failed to “seek justice, correct oppression [and] bring justice to the fatherless” (1:17). Isaiah told his contemporaries of God’s promise that “Zion shall be redeemed by justice” (1:27) and that God would “set [his] justice for a light to the peoples” (51:4).

Jesus promised to make all things new and to right that which is wrong. To do that, he will use us, his church, as instruments of justice and peace.

Are you prepared to say, “Here am I, Lord, send me”?



KNOWING GOD

Read **Isaiah 42:1-9**. Who is the “servant” in this passage of Scripture? How do you know?

What is Biblical justice?

Read **Matthew 12:9-21**. How did Jesus’ ministry on earth communicate God’s passion for and commitment to justice?



GROWING TOGETHER

Share about a way you have witnessed God’s justice, either for yourself or for others.

How well do you feel we are doing as a church to partner with God in bringing forth justice to the nations? How might we improve?

What are you doing in your own life to model and spread justice?



SERVING OTHERS

Interact with this statement: When it comes to ministry to the poor, there are times when “helping” can actually be “hurting.” Do you agree? What are some ways to avoid perpetuating the very problems we are trying to remedy?

For Jesus, justice often meant healing people like the man in Matthew 12 who had a withered hand. Who are the people in East Orlando who most critically need God’s justice?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

- a) Discuss: God is on a mission of justice to the poor and marginalized. How can your family participate?
- b) Do not underestimate the power of praying about the injustices that exist around us. It would be excellent if your family had a specific issue or problem about which to pray regularly. Put your heads together. What situation in the world upsets you? To get an idea, consider watching the nightly news together and “adopting” a problem in the world you can begin praying about.

SERMON NOTES