

God's Justice

September 20 – October 4, 2020

“Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?” – Ezekiel 18:29

We talk a lot about justice. People protest in the streets and online in the name of justice. As children, we demand fairness from peers, parents, and teachers. As adults, we demand justice from our government, from the courts, from one another. But, too often, what we really mean by fair or just is that we get our own way. We pay little attention to whether everyone else is getting what they need too. God's justice, however, sets our own demands aside and calls us to look at the world in a different way. To find true justice where all experience the dignity accorded to God's children. To find true fairness where everyone has what they need, no more and no less.

September 20 – Not Fair

“are you envious because I am generous?” – Matthew 20:15

Matthew 20:1-16; Jonah 3:10-4:11

Fair is fair. If someone works harder than someone else, they should make more money. People should do what they promise to do. We are right to complain when things aren't fair. But, do we really understand what fair is, what justice is? Leaning into love, into mercy, is just. It recognizes that no one is perfect and we are all in need of grace. Being around longer doesn't entitle us to more. Having a higher standing doesn't make us better. We all deserve God's justice not the justice we would apportion to others.

September 27 – Words are Cheap

“Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?” – Ezekiel 18:29

Matthew 21:23-32; Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

What we do matters so much more than the words we say. Saying I support true justice or God loves everyone or Black Lives Matter is so much easier than doing something about it. We want to ignore God’s authority while reaping the benefits of being God’s people. But God’s justice is seen in love lived out. It is seen in lives lived in faith and righteousness.

October 4 – Waiting For Us

“he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!” – Isaiah 5:7

Matthew 21:33-46; Isaiah 5:1-7

God does not ignore the injustice we perpetuate. It may seem like we’re getting away with it. Or we may be able to blind ourselves to the ways we are failing to enact God’s love and grace for all. But God is watching and God sees our actions. God has given us everything. A table has been laid. Will we share what we have? Will we reap justice and mercy or will we be wild grapes?