



Bible Reading Plan : 40 Days on Justice

Day 36

Ananias & Sapphira

Read > Acts 5:1-11

Contemplate > Sometimes people say that the Old Testament God is a God of judgement and that the New Testament God is a God of Love. In light of this passage, where God exacts judgement on Ananias and Sapphira in a very “Old Testament” way, do you think that judgement is part of God’s repertoire in this day and age? Do you think God’s feelings about injustice have changed since the end of the Old Testament? How then should we expect God will act when there are gross injustices going on in our world? What do you think our responsibility as Christians is in addressing injustice in our world?

Day 37

Slavery

Read > Philemon 1-25

Contemplate > Onesimus was an escaped slave, belonging to Philemon to whom Paul wrote this letter pleading for reconciliation. How does Paul seek to bring change to Onesimus' situation? What does Paul specifically ask of Philemon (verses 17-20)? In addition to that, what does Paul hint at in verse 21? What is the “more than I say” that Paul is alluding to? In what ways is slavery still around in our world? What can we do to bring about freedom for slaves in our day? How can we bring about an end to the sexual slavery of women trafficked into Hong Kong from Asia? How can we end the slavery of people who work in sweat shops so that we can buy cheap goods?

Day 38

Works of Faith I

Read > James 1:1-3:18

Contemplate > What issues of righteousness does James identify? What issues of justice does James identify? How does James relate righteousness and justice? In God’s view, how is being lowly “raised up”, and being rich mean being “brought low” (James 1:9-10)? How is James’ statement that “Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world” in good keeping with both the Sermon on the Mount, and the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament? Why does James warn against treating the rich with favouritism? How is favouritism an issue of justice? What absurdity does James highlight between treating the rich with favour, when it is they who oppress and drag people into court?



Day 39

Works of Faith II

Read > James 4:1-5:20

Contemplate > What issues of righteousness does James identify? What issues of justice does James identify? Why do you think James rebukes rich people in this way? Today given that owning a car (of any age) means that a person is in the top 5% of the world's richest people, do you think that this passage might apply to people in Hong Kong? How do you think this passage might apply to us as people who benefit from the oppression of workers in sweat shops? How do you think God feels about the Hong Kong economy being propped up by the financial and trading industries when the grassroots and their wealth have been stolen from structural unemployment?

Day 40

The Judgement of Babylon

Read > Revelation 16:1-18:24

Contemplate > Babylon and the great prostitute represent evil religious and political systems. The judgement of Babylon and the great prostitute is God's final solution to all issues of righteousness (religious system) and justice (political systems). Knowing that God is going to finally judge our religious systems, separating the sheep from the goats (see Matthew 25:31-46), how do you think we are called to change? Knowing that God is going to finally judge our political and economic systems, how do you think we are called to change? How does knowledge of final judgement provide an opportunity for change and redemption? What do you need to address in your life to bring it into better alignment with God's kingdom of righteousness and justice?