

Small Group News

SUNDAY SERVICES are ONLINE ONLY (sunrisechurch.org)

OUTDOOR SERVICE on Fridays in August @ Rialto Campus – 7 PM

Serving Opportunity: Fri 8/28=Cherry Turnover Day @ Food Pantry (12-3pm)

Email need@sunrisechurch.org for any who need assistance

Prayer: Wisdom for Leaders; New Outdoor Service; Rooted Launch in Sept.

Small Group Questions

For week of August 23rd, 2020

Strong in the Struggle

I Kings 21

INTRODUCTION

If 2020 had a slogan it would be: The Struggle is Real. Nothing like a worldwide Pandemic, social injustice, and a pending Presidential election to increase the stress in our lives. Some are facing unimaginable battles with grief, loss of income, and family crisis that make the struggle all the more vivid. Some may even ask, “where is God?” But what if God is still at work in the struggle? This month we explore how to react to struggle by discussing the life of Elijah. Our first reaction is to give in to panic, anxiety, and faith crushing doubt. But, as we will discover, we can remain strong in the struggle because God still provides victories, help, justice, and hope; even in the darkest of times.

The focus of the week: Justice in the Sadness

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Are you an early bird or night owl?
2. If you were famous, what would you be famous for?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Pastor Steve noted that skeptics have often wrestled with injustice as evidence that God does not exist. He countered with, “**Injustice doesn’t mean God’s not real, it means God’s not done.**” Where else does the Bible address this truth?
 - **Read: Psalm 73:1-28 & 33:4-5; Hebrews 10:26-31; Luke 18:1-8**
 - Share a story from your life when you experienced something so unfair it caused you to question God. How did you respond? Was it ever resolved?
 - What helps you resolve doubt and questions about God when they emerge in your life?
 - Why do you suppose God waits so long at times to make things right?
 - Do you feel more relief or more motivation to share your faith when you read that God’s justice is inevitable? Explain.
 - How would you answer someone who accuses God of not caring due to injustice?
2. Jezebel used her position to leverage injustice for Ahab’s gain. Jesus warns about doing this because it is the way of the wicked. But is God against having power or privilege? If not, how are we supposed to use things like money, privilege, power, or influence?
 - **Read: Matthew 20:20-27; John 13:1-5; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Isaiah 1:17**
 - Are privilege, power, and influence inherently ungodly? Why or why not?
 - If not wrong, what is the appropriate use of privilege, power, and influence?

- What was the significance of Jesus washing the disciples feet before He was crucified?
 - Define humility and meekness? Are they simply forms of weakness? Why/why not?
 - Paul instructed Timothy to teach the rich to be rich in good works. Do you consider Americans rich? Why or why not?
 - What does being rich in good works look like in our culture today?
3. You heard this week that God allowed the unjust death of Naboth to disarm the power of a king; and that later God allowed the unjust death of Jesus to disarm the power of sin. As you wrap up the conversation, discuss the following:
- How would you explain to someone that Jesus' death was unjust?
 - What has been your typical response to injustice in your life (continue, condone, or condemn)?
 - What advice would you give to someone who has experienced injustice?
 - What step can you take this week to help alleviate an injustice you are aware of?

TAKE IT HOME

During the message Pastor Steve encouraged us to respond to injustice by condemning it; but he also cautioned that we need to look at our own lives first.

In **Micah 6:8** God tells His people what He requires:

No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do [justice], to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (NLT)

Consider the importance of Micah's words by reflecting with God about three things:

1. On a scale of 1-5 how are you doing in practicing the areas God requires (justice, mercy, humility) toward others?
2. What are some steps for improvement in each area?
3. Is God giving you a passion or an idea to pursue that relates to justice, mercy, or humility?

Share your conclusions with your group next time you gather.

GROUP PRAYER