

CHAPTER 07 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: "PURSUE JUSTICE"

Seek First: How the Kingdom of God Changes Everything, by Jeremy Treat

1. On pp. 120-121, the author says. "The call to be a people of justice is proclaimed beautifully by the prophet Micah. He asked the people of God, 'What does the Lord require of you...?' The answer is clear: To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)."

And then he follows it up with this assertion: "Justice it's not merely a suggestion or a good idea; it is a requirement from God.... The call to justice is not an optional add-on for a few socially minded, passionate Christians. If God is passionate about something, then indifference is not an option for us. God cares about justice, and it as much as he is the God of justice, we are called to be a people of justice" (p. 121).

- To what degree has the issue of being a people who pursue justice been a part of your thinking as a follower of Jesus? Has it been absent? Present? Fuzzy? Essential?
 - In your experience with the church, has the call to justice been seen as "an optional add-on for a few socially minded, passionate Christians"?
2. The author contends on p. 125, "It's time for Christians to own up to the fact that we have a unique ethic shaped by life under God's reign. We all want human flourishing, but we have different understandings of what that means and how to achieve it. One of the most important ways that Christians can help define and contribute to the common good is by teaching the foundational idea that all people are made in the image of God are deserving of dignity and value."
 - How does this quote resonate with you? How do you see Christianity as uniquely positioned to teach that people are deserving of dignity and value?
 - "God gives a vision of seeking justice for all, from the womb to the tomb.... Christians are people who see the image of God in the unborn, the mentally or physically disabled, the immigrant, the widow, the poor, the prisoner, and the elderly" (p. 126).
 - "From the womb to the tomb." Do you find this phrase helpful? How might it highlight categories that some people might overlook?
 3. On p. 129, the author says, "...the gospel creates a people who seek mercy and justice. Why? Because the gospel gives us eyes to see others the way God does, and gives new hearts that motivate us to be involved in the work of justice that God is doing. The gospel gets to the heart, drawing us to God and into God's mission. The more we understand the gospel, the more we are drawn into Christ heart for the oppressed and hurting " (p. 129).
 - How does this quote resonate with you? What do you like or find helpful about it? Also, do you find it inspiring or uncomfortable? Explain.
 4. On pp. 132ff, the author presents a case study on the issue of racism.
 - How do you think Christians should speak at this time in our cultural moment?
 - What do you think about the current reality that Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week?

- On p. 136, the author says, “Racism is a sin, but so is indifference to racism. If God cares enough about bringing every tribe and tongue that he sent his Son to the cross, then we are called to participate in this reconciling work.”
 - How do you think God might be calling you to engage on this issue?
 - How might God be calling us at MHC to engage on this issue?
5. What is your biggest takeaway from this discussion? What is the one thing you want to remember going forward?