

Sermon Discussion Questions: Longing for Justice (Psalm 72)
Advent Week 3: December 15, 2019

1. What in the sermon encouraged you, comforted you, challenged you, or informed you?
2. What initially comes to your mind when you hear the word justice? What does a society look like that is ruled by justice?
3. Often when we think about justice, we emphasize what justice is against such as law breaking or disorder in society. The main goal of justice then is to punish the lawbreakers. Justice demands that we “crush the oppressor,” (Psalm 72:4). But looking at Psalm 72:1-4 what is justice for and who benefits from the execution of justice?

Mishpat (justice), then, is giving people what they are due, whether punishment or protection or care... Over and over again, *mishpat* describes taking up the care and cause of widows, orphans, immigrants and the poor—those who have been called “the quartet of the vulnerable”... The *mishpat*, or justness, of a society, according to the Bible, is evaluated by how it treats these groups. Any neglect shown to the needs of the members of this quartet is not called merely a lack of mercy or charity but a violation of justice, of *mishpat*. God loves and defends those with the least economic and social power, and so should we. That is what it means to “do justice.”

Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*

4. Read Psalm 146:1-7. What are the limitations and sins of earthly kings and why should we not put full trust in earthly kings? How is Jesus’ and His leadership different from these earthly kings?
5. Since Jesus is the eternal King, we know that justice against oppressors and justice for the oppressed will come fully when He returns. How does knowing this keep us from being discouraged and give us hope when we see injustice in our life and in society? How might we reflect Jesus’ justice for the marginalized right here in Lynchburg?

Prayerfully read through Malachi/Luke verses this week.

- **Adoration:** Read and adore God for His great character and kingdom clarified in the verse.
- **Meditation:** Read and consider key phrases, prepositions, people, plots, connections, and redemptive themes.
- **Confession:** Read and confess ways you don’t reflect God’s character and kingdom in the verse.
- **Thanksgiving:** Read and give thanks for God’s grace, forgiveness, and help in or around the verse.
- **Supplication:** Read and seek God’s guidance in applying the text. Write down application.

12/15 Psalm 72

12/16 Luke 1:26-38

12/17 Luke 1:39-45

12/18 Luke 1:46-56

12/19 Luke 1:57-66

12/20 Luke 1:67-80

12/21 Psalm 118