

Journey to Freedom

PART 4 - FIGHTING INJUSTICE



Welcome to Part 4 of our *Journey to Freedom* study series of the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament!

This week we're looking at the first glimpse into Moses' character that Exodus provides us with. One of the remarkable facts about the Bible is that God has demonstrated a consistent pattern of revealing aspects of Himself and His nature through the lives and actions and examples of ordinary people. In the passage we'll be looking at today Moses reveals an amazing aspect of God's nature.



Read: Exodus 2:11-22



There are three main events in this passage which reveal Moses' character - what are they? What do you think we can learn from Moses' character from his actions in these events?

This passage describes three significant events which all have a similar theme and reveal a consistent pattern of behaviour in Moses.

- (i) Moses sees an Egyptian unjustly beating a Hebrew slave and intervenes
(EXODUS 2:11B-12)
- (ii) Moses sees two Hebrews fighting with one clearly in the wrong and intervenes
(EXODUS 2:13)
- (iii) Moses sees some male shepherds bullying the daughters of Midian and intervenes
(EXODUS 2:16-17)

Moses seems almost obsessed with fighting injustice. We can see and will continue to see as we journey through Exodus that Moses spends a lot of time and energy dealing with injustice – either trying to bring justice, or trying to remedy the consequences of unjust behaviour by others and by defending others and himself against injustice.

One of the key attributes of God is that of resolving injustice.

Not only is God just in all He desires and does, but He commands that we act justly to one another and go even further than this in that we are to ensure that the rights of others are protected and that others, especially the weak and disadvantaged, are given justice.



What do you think "justice" is?

Describe some scenarios which give examples of justice being done

When we consider the meaning of the word 'justice' we usually mean being fair, ensuring everyone is treated equally, everyone is measured by the same standards, everyone's rights are upheld. In Catholic terms Justice is one of the four cardinal virtues and it means the moderation between selfishness and selflessness we people are treated fairly themselves and treat others fairly also.

In legal terms justice is a state of affairs in which conduct or action is both fair and right, given the circumstances. In law, it is about the obligation to ensure that all persons are treated fairly. Justice is sought by asking for compensation for wrongs committed against them; the idea is that the punishment fits the crime so that the balance of "good" or "virtue" over "wrong" or "evil" has been corrected.

In the Old Testament there are two main ideas associated with justice – there is an element of judgement and the other element is righteousness.

In Exodus the main expression of justice is God as a righteous God, and also a faithful God. God is just and therefore keeps His promises to His people. God is just and delivers His people. God is just and, as we shall see in weeks to come, provides a way for people to be blameless before Him – to receive justice and be acquitted.



Read: Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 58:6; Zechariah 9:9



JUSTICE IS ABOUT RIGHTING WRONGS. OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO RIGHTS WRONGS.

NLT Psalm 103:6 *The LORD gives righteousness and justice to all who are treated unfairly.*



**Can you think of any examples in the Bible where God has demonstrated justice?
If God is concerned with righting injustice, and we are to imitate Him; what must we do?**

Moses actively demonstrated the passion God has for fighting injustice. We can see that when Moses tried to deliver people in his own strength things didn't always work out (murdering people generally isn't part of God's plan!). It wasn't until he began working with the vision God gave Him and in reliance in God's strength and power that he was able to be a positive influence in bringing justice to God's people.



Does this mean that we should ignore injustice until we 'feel' certain God wants us to do something?

NAS Genesis 18:19 *"For I have chosen him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."*



Read: Isaiah 1:17; Matthew 5:48; Micah 6:8



**What does God expect of us?
Is this passive or active?**

God expects and commands us to actively fight injustice. When we do so we're not only effecting positive change in the world, we're helping spread the influence of God's Kingdom in this world and we are demonstrating to those around us what our God is like.



**Can you think of any global examples of injustice which Christians are fighting?
Can you think of any National examples of Injustice which Christians are fighting?
Can you think of any local examples of injustice which are opportunities for us to address?**



What important considerations do you think we should bear in mind in regards to fighting injustice?

Fighting injustice shows people a wonderful aspect of God's character. By actively fighting injustice we give people a glimpse of God in us and working through us.

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