

**Introduction**

**READ: Matthew 25:31-46**

For the next several weeks on Justice the and significance to the life of a disciple of Jesus

- Justice is the forgotten, hidden, neglected, or abandoned concept of the Christ life.
- Many here probably do not know what it is or how it applies to them
- What I want you to see is how central it is to understanding your entire life?

**ASK - What is Justice?** Answer: Fairness, even-handedness to all

- Abundance is distributed to where there is a shortage - in the entire human spectrum

**What is injustice?** Prejudice, inequality, unfairness, and bias

ILL - Equal distribution - helping secretary with boxes or person being brutally beaten.

**My hope for you tonight** is that you begin to practice justice on a daily basis. Then as you begin to plan your life and grow up - you'll lead biblical lives that serve Jesus by doing justice to the poor and afflicted. Justice is what you will teach to your children in both word and deed.

**We are answering the question of why salvation based on how we treat the poor - justice.**

**1. Justice is central to our salvation is because this was the primary action of Jesus.**

- Justice describes what he did to bring salvation.

**2 Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

- Jesus is eternal abundance of life and holiness - so he distributed it to the poor because of sin.
- By faith in Jesus as the Lord & Savior, people are rescued out of the oppressive injustice of sin
- Those who have faith in Jesus are given a new heart, new mind, & a new life -different than old.

These new people of Christ are now to be the gospel as Jesus was the gospel

- A sacrifice - dying to ourselves so others may live.

**Ephesians 5:2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

→ We are not to live in a manner where we continue to get more while others have less, which is injustice.

**For we are the aroma of Christ to God. (2 Corinthians 2:15)**

As we sacrifice our lives to bring justice to the poor we live out the gospel supernaturally.

**2. This Jesus who sacrificed himself so others may live will judge the nations upon that standard.**

**V. 31-33** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32] Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33] And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

**V.31-33 Jesus is the King and Judge**

This image of Jesus is both majestic and intimidating - especially if you are being judge by him

King Jesus will summons all the nations before him - none can ignore or resist.

King Jesus who will separate people one for another. None can ignore or resist.

- All answer to the ultimate king

He does not ask them to give an account of their life- for they do not speak - their life speaks for them.

Their evidence is already presented - based on the fruit of faith in their life he divides them.

Those bound for glory and the cursed into eternal fire.

There is no middle ground for between saved and lost

As we think about this we immediately begin to have wrong thoughts.

- I had better get busy to do the right things so Jesus will approve me.
- This is the lies of Satan and your sin at work in your heart.
- Your trust is in you, not in the work of Christ.

This passage is in no way saying that your salvation is based upon your works solely.

We must take the whole of scripture and make it agree with itself.

- We cannot set one scripture against another to get what we want.

The Scriptures also tell us that we must have faith to be saved and that obedience and spiritual fruit are evidence of faith.

**Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God**

**Matthew 7:17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.**

Justice (sacrificial living to help the poor) is a spiritual fruit that is evidence of your faith in Christ.

- There are unbelievers who sacrificially help the poor, will they go to heaven.
- Not because of their works without faith.

**This passage deals with only the end picture of people not the total picture**

### Application

When you hear the call to sacrifice your life how does that make you feel?

- To die to yourself is the gospel - it is the good news
- Jesus saved you from yourself and a life of injustice - where you get more and more.
  - This is completely opposite of our world's thinking
  - In fact, all those around you will tell you, you are wrong to live that way.

- Is the gospel of dying to yourself good news to you or do you consider it bad news?

**Ezekiel 34:23-24 And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the Lord; I have spoken.**

- Tonight the answer is not you or anything visible to you in this world.
- Tonight the answer is only Jesus, because it was only Jesus who became poor so that you could become rich.
- Because it is Jesus who will be your judge.
- He told people about the future so that they could seek out diligently to live for Jesus now.
- What does your life tell you, are you a sheep or a goat?
- Tonight, believe in Jesus and repent by living to meet the glorious King Jesus
  - May he say to you "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

