

REVIVE US

GOD'S PASSION FOR THE POWERLESS DAVID ANDERSON | OCTOBER 11, 2020 HUB NOTES

1) Brainstorm with your HUB. How would you define each of these terms?

Justice/Injustice

Equality/Inequality

Retributive vs Restorative Justice

Institutional Justice/Injustice

Social Justice

- Justice/Injustice—Getting what you deserve, not getting what you deserve
- Equality/Inequality—Equal standing/equal treatment
- Retributive vs Restorative Justice—punishment vs rehabilitation of offenders
- Institutional Justice/Injustice—justice/injustice embedded in an organization or society
- Social Justice—justice/injustice in terms of distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges

2) Why do you think these terms have become politicized and are so painful to discuss?

3) Read Isaiah 58:1-11:

¹ "Cry aloud, spare not; Lift up your voice like a trumpet; Tell My people their transgression, And the house of Jacob their sins. ² Yet they seek Me daily, And delight to know My ways, As a nation that did righteousness, And did not forsake the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; They take delight in approaching God. ³ `Why have we fasted,' they say, `and You have not seen? Why have we afflicted our souls, and You take no notice?' "In fact, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, And exploit all your laborers. ⁴ Indeed you fast for strife and debate, And to strike with the fist of wickedness. You will not fast as you do this day, To make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is it a fast that I have chosen, A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, And to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Would you call this a fast, And an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your

house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, `Here I am.' "If you take away the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ If you extend your soul to the hungry And satisfy the afflicted soul, Then your light shall dawn in the darkness, And your darkness shall be as the noonday. ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

What's the problem with Israel's worship and fasting?

God found no pleasure in their empty worship, because they failed to love and care for some of God's most precious people—the most vulnerable and least powerful.

What specifically does God call out?

4) Why is it so easy to neglect the most vulnerable and least powerful in society?

- There is seemingly no personal advantage or help to befriend the vulnerable and people who lack power and influence.
- The lives of the least of these in society are messy and any effort to interact with them will be messy. Many of us have had very negative experiences as we try to help others.
- When you and I see the powerless, we assign a story to them; we assume a series of horrible, sinful decisions that have landed that person in that place.
- Because of our wealth/position in society, it allows us to create a bubble where we can select who we associate with and avoid those who make us feel uncomfortable.

5) How can we love the most vulnerable and least powerful?

2020 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.