What's Required Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 8.9.2020

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.

Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[Micah 6:8, NKJV]

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Church is the ekklesia, those who have been called out and called together.

With great leadership and power comes great responsibility.

WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF US...

1. Do Justice.

Biblical definition of "Justice" = to make right a wrong

"Social Justice" = making right a wrong to help people physically, mentally, emotionally

"Kingdom Justice" = not just meeting the mental, physical, and emotional needs of people, but ultimately their greatest need, which is for a Savior!

As the American church, we are responsible for the spiritual climate for one of the leading nations in the globe.

[Psalm 33:5]

The Lord loves righteousness and justice.

[**Proverbs 29:7**]

The righteous care about justice for the poor.

[Psalm 9:16]

The Lord is known by His acts of justice.

2. Love Mercy.

"Mercy" = to not get what you deserve = to not give others what they deserve

Justice is what love looks like in public.

-Dr. Cornell West

The moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

[Romans 3:23, NLT]

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

[Romans 6:23, NIV]

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!

[Proverbs 3:3-4, NKJV]

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.

[Luke 6:36, NIV]

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Truth without mercy will turn people away from the gospel; Jesus is not asking us to do something He hasn't modeled Himself.

3. Walk Humbly.

"Humility" = agreeing with what God says about you

= not thinking less about yourself, but thinking about yourself less

When we do justice, God moves, not just when we "talk justice."

[Romans 12:1, NIV]

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

FOR MONDAY—

- 1. Love mercy. (Even on social media, be merciful in your speech.)
- 2. Pray and ask God for answers to the huge issues of injustice.

TALK IT THROUGH

- 1. How surreal does this season feel for you or your family? In other words, what factors seem more like we're dreaming than experiencing our current reality?
- 2. In what ways does America fall into the patterns of a "post-Christian nation?"
- 3. What should we be fighting for in this season? What should we "roll with?" What is required of believers?
- 4. How are "social justice" and "Kingdom justice" different?
- 5. What is one way you can personally "right a wrong?" Where is the opportunity ultimately to point people to Jesus?
- 6. What are some issues in the nation in which the church needs to take more of a lead role rather than one of support?
- 7. When have you experienced mercy: you did not get the consequence you deserved? How can you do likewise?
- 8. What is humility? If it's agreeing with what God says about you, what is He specifically speaking to you?