

“Justice And Society”

Judges 17

Sermon Series: “True Justice In An Unjust World”

Introduction: What does it look like to have a just society? We really want a just society, but many people believe our society is unjust. And honestly, we have many problems and much injustice. However, many people would give everything they have to be able to come and live in our country due to all of the injustice they experience because injustice is worse in many places in the world than it is here. The reality is that we long for justice because we are made in the image of God but created we injustice because we are marred by indwelling sin. We will not experience perfect justice until the Jesus, the King, arrives to set up His Kingdom. However, we should strive to make a difference in creating just societies until He returns. **We must also remember that this is not ultimately a flesh and blood battle but a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 2:8-9).** We must also remember that the social justice we need is biblical justice, God’s justice, and not a worldly version of it that does not accord with Scripture, and therefore truth and reality.

What leads to societies functioning in an unjust manner? The book of Judges in the Bible presents a bleak and vivid picture of an unjust society. God’s people had failed to obey the Lord and completely take the Promised Land. They had joined the idolatry of their neighbors instead of living as a people separated to the Lord. **The book ends with these words, which are actually the second time they’ve been said, “In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (21:25).** Those words summarize many examples that are presented in this book, and I think that on some level they describe our society today. Here are some things we see in Judges that they do that led to an unjust society that was falling apart. I share them in hopes that we will do the opposite and build a just society.

How To Build An Unjust Society:

1. The Absence of Righteous Leadership

Proverbs 13:23, 14:34, 16:12, 29:2

2. The Lack of Personal Responsibility

Ezekiel 18, Romans 14:12

- A. We can’t have our own truth.**
- B. We can’t decide what is right and wrong.**
- C. We can’t do whatever we want to do.**

D. We can't avoid the consequences of our choices.

3. The Breakdown of the Family

Psalm 127:1

4. The Failure of Professing Christians To Live Like Christians

Joshua 2:1-15, 2 Chronicles 7:14

Conclusion: Israel was supposed to be ruled by the Lord (8:23) and not a human king so they were really rejecting Jesus. Jesus is the King who is coming to set things right. It is only by trusting and surrendering to Him that we can be the people we are supposed to be and contribute to the building of a just society.