

The Role of the Church in the Community – Part 3

Justice and Mercy in the Old Testament – Part 1

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Role of the Church in the Community. Our topic today: Justice and mercy in the OT.

Scripture Theme Song: It is good to give thanks (Ps. 92:1-4)

- 1) God desires mercy and justice for all
 - a) Exodus 22:21-23
 - b) Exodus 23:2-9
 - c) Deuteronomy 24:19-22
 - d) What does God's desire for mercy and justice reveal about His character?
- 2) The Sabbath is a reflection of God's mercy and justice
 - a) Exodus 20:8-11 – weekly Sabbath
 - b) Exodus 23:10-11 – seventh year
 - c) Leviticus 25:8-17 – year of Jubilee
 - d) How do you see God's mercy and justice reflected both on the weekly Sabbath, the seventh year, and the year of Jubilee?
- 3) We have a responsibility to show mercy and seek justice for others
 - a) Psalm 82:3
 - b) Proverbs 14:31
 - c) Proverbs 29:7
 - d) Proverbs 31:8-9
 - e) Isaiah 1:17
- f) Why is it important that we reflect God's character of love by showing mercy and seeking justice?
- g) Stories of showing mercy
 - i) Luke 10:30-37 – the good Samaritan
 - ii) Ruth 2:15-17 – Boaz and Ruth
 - iii) Other stories?
- h) What are some practical ways Christians can be involved in showing mercy and seeking justice?
- i) Have you ever seen someone begging at a street corner? How do you know if that person is genuinely in need? How do you determine whether or not you should help?
- 4) The LORD rebukes those who have an outward show of piety but do not demonstrate mercy and justice.
 - a) Isaiah 58:1,6-7
 - b) Matthew 25:41-45
 - c) Matthew 23:23
 - d) How can we avoid the trap of external piety while ignoring the things that really matter to God?
- 5) Blessings come when we show mercy and seek justice for others.
 - a) Isaiah 58:8-9a
 - b) What other passages of Scripture remind us that blessings come back to us when we give to others?
 - i) Luke 6:38
 - ii) Acts 20:35
 - c) Share a time when you were able to show mercy or seek justice for someone else. How did that experience impact you personally?