

LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

7. JUSTICE

We understand justice as what is correct, what is fair, what is aligned and what meets the established requirements; its weight in value. The Bible narrates the moment in which King Belshazzar receives the interpretation of a message sent by God through a vision; the prophet Daniel gives the king the interpretation:

Tekel means 'weighed'—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up.

Daniel 5:27 NTV



Job expresses in the midst of his tribulation, his pain and during his process with God, that he believes his own life is still filled with justice and integrity before Him:

Let God weigh me on the scales of justice, for he knows my integrity.

Job 31:6 NTV

God's justice is not the same as human justice and can only be measured by His word. Otherwise, each human being would manage a level of self-justice based on their own concepts of what is good or bad; altering it to what suits them or what they prefer. This is precisely what God told us not to do because otherwise we would die.

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. 16 But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

Genesis 2:15-17 NTV

What this means is that God did not give us the ability to discern good from bad. We don't have that ability and that's why we must depend on Him to tell us what is good and what is bad. Only He knows. What may be good for one person may not be good for another, so who is right?

Only God has the moral authority to define what is right, after all He is the creator and Father of all. He created and designed everything to work according to His plan and for His purpose whether it be good or bad. The just and unjust are all part of His wonderful plan and filtered by His will; whose existence cannot be affected by our own perspective or desires.

Another beautiful characteristic of God's justice is that it is not hidden or dependent on your emotions or mood. His justice is written and very well detailed in his word. In the Scriptures, we can clearly see the consequences for believing and therefore living in what He established as well as the consequences for not doing so.

In his love He designed a plan of salvation for those of us who, like Adam, taste the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. There is a plan of redemption for those of us who take the responsibility to live by our own criteria, dying to the life of the spirit and are completely separated from the love of the Father.

God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. e no cometió pecado alguno, por nosotros Dios lo trató como pecador, para que en él recibiéramos la justicia de Dios.

2 Corintios 5:21 NUV

God's plan is not to declare us innocent because we are not. His plan was to pay Himself for the penalty of that sin: death. This is why He sent his son to die for us thus becoming our justice by taking our place and paying for our sins with His life on the cross with His last drop of blood. In this way, He justified us and made us righteous before God. By paying for our sins, there is no longer a debt that we have to pay and we can now enter calmly and confidently into the presence of our Father.

Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,

Romanos 3:24-25 NTV

Righteousness is Christ, (the living Word), so being aligned or correct with that word is not the same thing as just doing good. The necessary source is Jesus. Being in justice is not doing what seems good or right to us but aligning ourselves with Jesus, (the Word), and doing what He instructs us to do. That is living in justice, living in Christ and being in Him. This is what we understand as living in the centre of His will. We are made righteous not when we live a life of doing things which we consider as good things but when we choose to believe that what He did is enough to cleanse us from all our wickedness. This results in a life that responds in gratitude to His mercy and that abides in Him and seeks to align itself with His will at all times.

Study questions

1. According to the text, how is justice defined and what is the difference between God's justice and human justice?
2. Why is it crucial to rely on God's word to discern good and evil?
3. How is the human ability to discern good and evil addressed in the context of the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?
4. Why is the need to depend on God and his word to know justice emphasized?
5. What is the role of Jesus Christ in God's plan of justice according to the text?
6. How does Jesus' death on the cross and his sacrifice fulfill divine justice and allow believers to be declared righteous before God?

