

THIRD OPTION WEEK 3
BRINGING HEALING AND UNITY TO OUR WORLD THROUGH ACTS OF JUSTICE
AND COMPASSION

“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.” (Micah 6:8 NKJV)

Introduction: In this week’s sermon, we learned that one of the most important ways to demonstrate the third option of honor is to stand up for the needs and rights of others who don’t have the same privileges we have and doing it as if we were standing up for ourselves.

1. We mentioned how nothing feels more dishonoring than when people are unfair and trample on your rights and nothing feels more honoring than when someone really fights for you. Can you give an example of someone who really took a stand for you and help you get what you couldn’t have gotten on your own? (encouragement, help, opportunity...) How did that make you feel?
2. The Bible promises that we will receive a special sense of God’s blessing and favor on our lives as we step out of our bubble to carry out acts of compassion and justice. (Isaiah 58:6-11)

Which of the following blessings can you especially relate and testify to?

- a. God bringing unexpected resources to and through your life as you stepped out to give
 - b. A special sense of God’s presence, since what you did for the least you were doing for Him
 - c. Spiritual, physical, or emotional healing coming to your life
 - d. Friendships and relationships in which you received back as much or more than you gave
 - e. God answered prayers in a remarkable way and even did signs and wonders
3. It was mentioned that mercy and justice go together because we have to have the mercy to really care and the courage to speak up and even risk offending some people. What do you need to ask God for more often?
 - a. The ability to speak the truth
 - b. The gentleness to show love and speak the truth in the right way?
 4. The ability to bring compassion and justice involves learning to see the “privileges” you have as not something to grasp or something you are entitled to or be ashamed of but something that has been given to you as a stewardship to be used on behalf of others. (Luke 12:48-much given much required)

How do things like fear, envy, and shame try to rob us of this? What are some special gifts, God has given you that can be stewarded in more profitable ways to bring God's compassion and justice into the world?

5. Where are you sensing the Lord wants to especially help you feel challenged to move out in more compassion and justice?

- a. In becoming a better listener, not trying to have easy answers but an empathetic heart. Learning to be friends first, so I can understand and care more successfully later.
- b. Not letting myself feel paralyzed with the small amount I have to give, but being confident to give and do the little I can faithfully
- c. Being more challenged to get out of my comfort zone and "bubble"
- d. Not be afraid to be "controversial"
- e. Realizing the incredible impact that prayer can make
"And will not God bring justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night?" (Luke 18:7-8)
- f. Other

6. What is a special way you feel "burdened" or SHAPED by God to address some specific injustice in the world? If there was one particular wrong that you most would feel passionate about seeing made right, what would that be?