

BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

READ MATTHEW 5: 1-12

1. Does our culture consider any of the things mentioned in this passage a real blessing?
2. Have you ever felt blessed for any of these reasons?
3. Which of the beatitudes do you strive for the most? Which do you avoid? Why?

READ LUKE 10: 25-31

1. Which character in the story do you most identify with?
2. Who is the “neighbor” in your life that you need to show more compassion too?

READ LUKE 16: 19-31

1. Who are the poor crying outside your door?
2. How are you responding?

READ MATTHEW 16: 24-26

1. When have you experienced this gospel paradox of losing your life yet saving it at the same time?
2. Do you consider yourself an admirer of Jesus or one of his followers?
3. What keeps you from a deeper relationship with Christ?

READ MATTHEW 19: 16-24

1. What does it mean to love perfectly?
2. What gets in your way as you attempt to follow Jesus? What is the “treasure” in your life that you cling to?
3. Which is more difficult for you: following the commandments or giving up your “treasure”?

READ MATTHEW 22: 34-40

1. What ‘commandment’ (guiding principal/top priority) do you live by?
2. Write down your top 5 priorities in life and the top 5 ways you spend most of your time. Do your behaviors match your priorities?

READ MATTHEW 25: 31-46

1. Does this passage make you feel uncomfortable in any way? How so?
2. How is the Lord calling you to serve at this time in your life?
3. What changes does our “nation” (community, state, country) need to make in order to enter eternal life? How will you inspire your community, state and country to make those changes?

READ LUKE 6: 27-35

1. What are the “rewards” we sometimes look for when we serve or work for justice?
2. It is easy to feel unappreciated, taken advantage of and discouraged as we work for justice. How does the above passage change how you might deal with those feelings?
3. In what ways can you be more merciful with those who disagree with you on justice issues?