

4. Read Ezekiel 22:25-29 and Isaiah 10:1-2 while noting below examples of idolatry, immorality, and personal and systemic injustice.

5. From a biblical worldview, why is it we can say that injustice permeate all social structures created by humanity without condemning all social structures and people as completely unjust?

6. How has the Word spoken to your life through this sermon?

Tulsa Race Massacre

- “9 Things You Should Know About the Tulsa Race Massacre” by Joe Carter (<https://bit.ly/34NOIMx>).
- “The Moral Reckoning of History: Looking Back at the Tulsa Race Massacre 100 Years Later” Transcript of The Briefing Podcast by Albert Mohler (<https://bit.ly/3uMx7db>).

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

Justice (A Story of God Series)

“When the Oppressed Become the Oppressors (Kings & Prophets)”

1 Samuel 12:1-9

One of the simplest definitions of justice is giving people what they are _____. And the Bible teaches that people are due being treated with dignity and worth because they are made in the image of God.

When the Oppressed Become the Oppressors

Creation & Separation (Genesis 1-11)

In Creation, we see that the biblical idea of justice is rooted in the _____ of humanity as God’s image bearers.

In a real sense, the whole story of the Bible is a story about _____ justice.

Promise (Genesis 12-50)

Adam and Eve failed to trust God. Abraham trusts God and in his trust, his relationship with God is _____. He is counted righteous because of his faith, because he believes God.

Genesis 18: 19 For I have chosen [Abraham], so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Biblical social justice will always, then, reflect the righteousness of God—it will align with what is ethical, right, and _____.

Sacrifice & Law (Exodus – Ruth)

If you know the story of the conquest of Canaan you’re seeing there the application of retributive justice to the inhabitants. But all the while God is taking the Israelites on a journey to bringing restorative justice to the whole _____.

Deuteronomy 15: ⁴ However, there need be no poor people among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you, ⁵ if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today. ⁶ For the Lord your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.

Kings & Prophets (1 Samuel – Malachi)

1 Samuel 12:1-9

The Sins of Israel as a Nation:

- Idolatry
- Immorality
- Injustice (personal, pervasive, **systemic**)

Ezekiel 22:25-29

Isaiah 10: ¹ Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ² to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

Injustice as a Personal and Systemic Problem

When unjust people with power and influence make the laws, form societies, create governing associations, set policies, and just basically devise the rules, injustice becomes systemic or baked into the society at **large**.

All the evidence suggests and the Bible's testimony certainly affirms the idea that prejudices still exist that inevitably impact our laws, institutions, businesses, **policies**, education, and culture.

The Ripple Effect of Injustice

Just as our personal sins ripple out to effect others, societal sins have a ripple **effect** as well.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Read 1 Samuel 12:1-9. How does this parable not only depict David's sin but also Israel's eventual sin?
3. Nathan's story is powerful. Can you recall a story, book, TV show, poem, work of art, or movie that depicted injustice in a way that pierced your heart? What was it, and how did it impact you?