

RESCUE SUNDAY

Multiplication of Evil and Injustice



MULTIPLICATION OF EVIL AND INJUSTICE

AUTHOR - Pastor Paul Summers

Study 2:

Multiplication of Evil and Injustice

We left off last week taking in the beauty of Creation as God intended it. This glimpse of flourishing, created from an overflow of God's love and justice, fell apart quickly because of humanity's actions. The first people chose to act against God's desire, centering themselves rather than God (Genesis 3) and forever impacting humanity's relationship with God, one another, and nature. This first act of rebellion against God resulted in the proliferation of violence, evil, and injustice that reverberates throughout the Bible—and all of history—even into our world today.

When our heart breaks for what breaks God's heart, and our mind aligns with God's justice only, we might make steps toward embracing Micah 6:8. And what does God require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

This study is to move us toward seeing injustice, being outraged by injustice and desiring to take steps toward sharing in the movement of God to bring more of His Kingdom to our earth so His love can transform our world.

While we might feel tempted to place ourselves at a distance from the brokenness of the world, all of creation is connected. Describing the concept of ubuntu, South African archbishop Desmond Tutu said, "My humanity is bound up in yours for we can only be human together." The reality is, our actions (and even inaction)- can perpetuate systems of injustice, further the destruction of nature, and contribute to the brokenness around us.

Today's text paints a bleak picture of the pervasiveness of evil and violence, where all of humanity is complicit. You might have more questions than answers, and that's ok! God welcomes our questions. This is a community where we are learning to dialogue and process together.

DISCUSS:

- How might our actions or inaction contribute to the injustice we see and experience in the world?

Genesis 3-11 shows the exponential growth of pain, violence, and evil against individuals, within communities, in the heart of all humanity, and eventually in systems and structures.

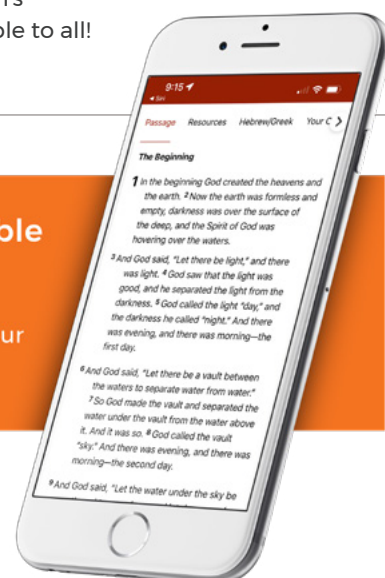
People across the earth are longing for Jesus's living water, thirsty for the freedom of His truth, searching for belonging, and yearning for Heaven's grace to heal and refresh their lives. And His invitation of love is available to all!

READ:

Genesis 6:5-22

**Grab your Bible
and open to
Genesis 6**

or look it up on your
mobile device



DISCUSS:

- What would the world look like if “every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time”? How might that impact how we treat ourselves, each other, and nature? How would you feel about that world?
- What is God’s response to injustice in this text? What does that show us about the character of God?

Additional questions;

- What are God’s actions in the text? What are humanity’s actions in the text?
- What similarities and differences do you see between this text and the last study of Genesis 1?
- Where do you see death and life in the text?
- Why do you think God’s heart was troubled by the state of creation?
- The text describes every inclination of humanity’s heart as evil. How do you see this evidenced in the world around you? How do you see that statement evidenced in your own heart?

SUMMARY + REFLECTION:

It grieved the heart of God to see how far Creation had strayed from the original picture of life and flourishing. Creation was on a path of self-destruction. So, in love, God set apart Noah’s family and animals to allow creation a chance to start again. Yet the state of the world around us shows how humanity’s actions have continued on this self-destructive path. Without God, humans will always gravitate towards prioritising ourselves over others, hatred over forgiveness, and overconsumption and exploitation over stewardship and cultivation.

The Hebrew word that captures what we long for—when things are as they should be—is shalom (usually/always translated in English bibles as “peace”). Shalom connotes a sense of wholeness, completion, and peace in a material, physical, relational, and moral sense. It’s peace with God, peace from God and peace with each other. To seek shalom is to work for justice and righteousness on personal, communal, and systemic levels.


Facing the reality of brokenness in the world grows our sense of urgency and desire for shalom. Our culture gives us many opportunities to quickly move on from hard things. We are tempted to scroll on and disengage from the pain and injustice. It’s intimidating and overwhelming. This week, we want to pause to remain in the tension as a community and sit with God in grief, sadness, and anger over injustice. Here at Destiny Rescue, it breaks our hearts that more than 1 million children are victims of sexual exploitation today. Four out of five of those in commercial sexual exploitation are girls and women. A staggering sixty percent of victims of sexual exploitation are in the Asia Pacific region. This evil industry creates a \$99 billion dollar economy each year. This is why we need a movement of disciples of Jesus who will stand with our rescue agents and aftercare workers to rescue, restore and reintegrate trafficked children so they, too, can experience shalom. We believe every child is worth the risk, worth the cost and worth the love.

- **Take a minute to pause and listen;** reflect on the text and the state of the world. How might God be speaking to you? To us?

APPLY:

Spiritual Practice: Lament

Holy discontent and grief are right—and even Godly—responses to injustice. Lament is not forced but an authentic expression of our grief and discontent toward God. Lament is not despair. It is the cry of those who see the truth of the world’s deep wounds and the cost of seeking peace. It is the prayer of those deeply disturbed by how things are.



As a community, practice lament together, bringing the heaviness of injustice in our world before God. Psalm 10 is a powerful Psalm that brings us to a place of lament over the wickedness of the wicked (Verses 1-11), and Invites us to petition God to defend the defenceless and vulnerable (Verses 12-18). So that mere earthly mortals will terrify no more, verse 18. Read a stanza and pray what the Holy Spirit puts on your heart.

Reflect + Share

- What is God saying to you or your community through Psalm 10?
- In what broken area of your life, community or world are you longing for God's shalom and justice?