

INTRODUCTION

The reflections during the *Building Bridges of Hope* series aim to capture the big ideas of the weekly sermon. The sermon series will focus on CG Midtown's core values through the lens of the book of Acts.

CG MIDTOWN VALUE: JUSTICE

Individually and as a community, we desire to live in right relationship with God, each other, and all of Creation. We long to act justly and equitably and to break down barriers of injustice in the community around us. We strive to demonstrate this pursuit in tangible ways through our words and activity.

SERMON REFLECTION

Read: Psalm 146:7-9, Luke 4:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 19:1-10

Overview: Kingdom justice is the mission of the church. From the first moments of Christ's public ministry, he declared that his mission was to set things right for everyone. In our day, justice has many different meanings and applications and is used for different agendas. We can't have justice without Jesus and we cannot have Jesus without Justice.

Reflect:

- Describe a time when you experienced an injustice.
- Have you worked for justice on behalf of someone? If so, describe what that was like.
- Answer the question from this statement, "Justice is the theme that runs throughout the Scriptures from beginning to end. It is what God is doing through Jesus to restore creation to its original intent: Humans living in harmony with God and with each other. The Bible calls the state of this human condition, Shalom, the way things are supposed to be. This, though, is not the way things are. How did we get here?"
- Based on the sermon, how do you understand "sinful systems of unrighteousness"? What are some examples today?
- How can you fight against "sinful systems of unrighteousness" today? How can CG Midtown?

PRAYER

- *Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. -- From Xavier University, Justice Prayers*