

LIVING IT OUT

Fortnight starting Sunday 18 October

This fortnight invites us to dive into Isaiah 58 and explore the relationship between devotion, worship and justice, asking the question:

Can we worship God without being people who do justice?

READ

- Transcript of Matt's message
 - Click here to download the PDF
 - Click here to watch the sermon on YouTube [available from Monday 19 October]
 - Click here to listen to the Podcast [available from Monday 19 October]
- Isaiah 58
- Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount)

REFLECT

- (1) The passage of Isaiah 58 shows God speaking to a community of people about acts of justice and worship. It clearly and passionately demonstrates that worship and acts of justice are intrinsically linked; and Matt shared that we are to live a both/and kind of life, rather than either/or.
 - How are we, as a faith community, living out a both/and kind of life in worship and through acts of justice?
 - What do you feel God would say to us in this season as a collective people?
 - Do you find you are personally participating in our faith community's acts of worship and acts of justice?

- (2) Matt asked the challenging question: "If someone examined our lives, the totality of our lives, would it be clear that God was at the centre?"
 - What areas of your life do you feel don't always show God at the centre?
 - Why do you think that there are some areas that do and some that don't?
 - What would it take for your life to look holistically centred on God?
 - What might be trying to pull you away from that sort of life?
- (3) Towards the conclusion of Matt's sermon, he says, "There are many people across the church globally and in the world that are committed to the idea of justice that cry out for justice, that advocate for justice on social media but that aren't actually working for justice in a meaningful way."
 - When you do notice injustice in the world and around you, what is the difference from the times you act and the times you hesitate?
 - What seems to propel you into action? What might be wrestling you away from action?
 - Ask God to open your heart and your eyes over this next fortnight to be better able to notice injustice around you even injustice that you may be unknowingly contributing to (e.g. climate injustice, ethical purchasing, Godly financial stewardship)...

Share your thoughts with one or two people who can keep you on track. If you have any questions, please email us at <u>care@grlc.org.au</u>

PRAY

Fill me with gratitude for the cross. God, give me a fresh revelation of your heart so that I can know the depth of your love for me. Open the eyes of my heart to see, think and feel as You do.

You can also <u>download our helpful prayer resource</u>, and pray with us each day this fortnight for justice: *the world just as it ought to be*.

PRACTICE

As disciples of Jesus, we shouldn't be content with spending our time just talking about justice. The practice of 'See Think Feel' is designed to help us to see more like Jesus sees, think more like Jesus thinks, and feel more like Jesus feels. **Download the guide.**

RESOURCES

Check out Tim Keller's article: "A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critial Theory"