God's Heart of Justice

Proverbs 29:4

Synopsis

Today's sermon we cap off our three-week mini-dive into what Proverbs teaches us about government. Particularly, in this sermon we will consider the responsibility of a good government to enact justice. The term "justice" is not a term that can be redefined. True justice is always God-centered, not man-centered. Justice is acting in a way that accords with the infinite value of God. Only with that starting point, can we really understand the depth of God's justice in and through the cross, as well how God has designed justice to work itself out in this fallen world.

Sermon Outline

***Primary Proverb**: "By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down."*

1. Exposition
    a. Connecting wisdom and justice
    b. Defining justice
    c. Proverbs 29:12, 14 – justice considers the vulnerable
    d. Christ's fulfilment of justice
2. Application
    a. Not all the world calls justice is truly justice
    b. Earthly government must punish, not reform, evildoers
    c. Watch for callousness towards the vulnerable in your own heart

Reflection & Discussion Questions

Warning to SG Leaders: We are approaching the topic of governance and politics of a nation. Tread wisely and carefully with your group. We are trying to work at the level of 'principles' in this study, principles to guide our hearts and minds to engage faithfully.

1. **Observing the Text**: First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.

    a. Include the following verses in your discussion: Proverbs 2:9-10, 20:8, 21:3, 29:4.

2. In the sermon we discussed two themes that emerge in Proverbs. On the one hand, justice is blind and does not favor the rich or the poor/vulnerable. On the other hand, the

poor/vulnerable are easily overlooked and so we must be intentional to make sure justice done. Do you have any personal examples where you have seen the vulnerable overlooked?

3. Read Isaiah 58:6-10. Observe this text together as a group. What areas of your own life does God bring conviction to when you read these verses?

4. In the sermon, Pastor Raef discussed how it is sometimes easy to allow callouses to develop on our heart that slows down our loving pursuit of the vulnerable around us. Have you ever experienced this? What can you do to correct this?

5. Navigating modern calls for justice can be very complicated and confusing. As a Christian community (your Small Group), how can we grow together in our ability to discern truth in the midst of so many loud voices in culture calling for various forms of justice?

For Family Discipleship

This is a great week to talk to your child about God's justice. Ask them if they know what justice is. Then explain to them that Biblical justice is "acting in a way that accords with the infinite value of God." Teach them about how God will often use police officers to enact His justice, by catching the person who has committed a crime.

For Men and Women

Similar question, yet men and women will have unique answers to this that can be discussed in separate groups.

For Men: This is our third week discussing government and politics in Proverbs. Are there any areas in terms of the discussion of a biblical worldview on politics that you think men particularly struggle with, or would do well to get training in righteousness on?

For Women: This is our third week discussing government and politics in Proverbs. Are there any areas in terms of the discussion of a biblical worldview on politics that you think women particularly struggle with, or would do well to get training in righteousness on?