

OUTLINE

1. Injustice and oppression bring questions.
2. The answer is not laziness.
3. The answer is not work.
4. The answer is relationship.
 - a. Work on your relationship with God.
 - b. Work on your relationship with others.

REVIEW

READ Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

OBSERVE

1. What is the problem that frustrates the preacher in our passage (3:16-4:3)?
2. What solutions do people offer to the questions raised by injustice and oppression (4:4-8)?
3. What answer does the text offer to the questions raised by injustice and oppression (4:9-16)?

INTERPRET

1. Why do work and laziness fail to answer the questions raised by injustice and oppression?
2. How does Jesus give us hope for today in the face of injustice and oppression?

ASSESS

1. Think back to the last time you felt despair. How did you respond? How does your response compare to the responses we see in the text?
2. What is one word you would use to describe the current state of your relationship with God? Why would you choose that word?
3. What person can you go to when you need help and encouragement? Who in your life tells you difficult things when you need to hear them? How did you develop these relationships?

NOTES

DIG DEEPER

Weekly Reading Plan

Psalm 133
Daniel 1-4
John 1
Acts 16:1-17:15
Revelation 5

MUTUAL MINISTRY

HOW DID YOUR PLAN GO?

APPLY

1. How do you cope when you feel overwhelmed by the questions raised by injustice and oppression? What practical step can you take to replace those coping mechanisms with meaningful relationships?
2. What would it look like for you to work on your relationship with God this week?
3. Who is someone you can trust to encourage you and point you to Jesus in difficult seasons? Take time this week to reach out to them and thank them for being that person in your life.
4. What is a relationship you want to work on this week? Take some time to prayerfully consider how that person feels loved, and invest in him or her this week.
5. Are there any other steps of obedience God is calling you to from the sermon?

I WILL

WILL

We are a group of people growing together to be more like Jesus by loving one another ... forgiving one another ... serving one another ... submitting to one another ... being devoted to one another ... encouraging one another ... and living on God's mission.