



Icebreaker: What is the difference between the Alachua County Criminal Justice Center and the Alachua County Civil Justice Center? What events do these courts serve?

In the interview with P. Joel and P. Jon, what did you observe? What points were made that stand out to you?

Main Passages: Matthew 23:23

Big Idea: The Weightier Matters of the Law

Epidemic of modern-day Pharisees. “Churches are full of Hypocrites!” Harsh words of Jesus. They had applied certain portions of God’s Word – like tithing. Jesus said, *“these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”* But take your faith and go deeper. Recognize the weight, justice, mercy and faith needed to be His follower.

Point 1. Justice

- What does God say is “right?”
- How do you define “justice” and how does the Bible address “justice?”
- What have you witnessed lately in our society that identified unrighteousness, but left justice unaddressed?
- Why do some people claim that there is systemic injustice in our culture? What do they mean by this? On the other hand, some don’t see any problem, why do you think that is so?

We have a system that if you have money you get different justice than everybody else. There is a system that if you have power – as a pastor or a CEO or a manager – unless we embrace God’s call for justice, systems gravitate toward the powerful, fortunate, leveraged, privileged.

- What can the church do to make a difference? How do we bring correction?

Point 2. Mercy

The covenant love of God. It’s gracious and kind and loving and helpful and patient.

READ 1 Cor. 13

- How is love explained in this passage?
- How can we embrace this type of love in our lives? How does this affect the way we treat others?
- What does this mean, “We live in a cancel culture?” Give examples.

- *Your silence is compliance.* What are some of the things we can do to cause change in our society to the problems we see before us?
(Domestic abuse, spousal and child abuse, or sexual molestation)

YOU CAN'T USE HELL'S TOOLS TO BUILD HEAVEN'S KINGDOM. WE FOLLOW A KING WHO IS MERCIFUL – HE DEMANDS JUSTICE. BUT HE DEMANDS MERCY.

Point 3. Faithfulness

READ Mat. 6:32-34

- What are we to seek in this life?
- Whose kingdom are you following?
- What's the difference between social justice and biblical justice?
- How can people hear and come to know the truth of who Jesus is and what He desires of those that follow Him?