



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Preaching Passage: Micah 6:6-8

Sermon Series: Foundations

Sermon Title: Our Values – Christ-like Compassion

Date: March 3, 2019

Preacher: Bart Box

**Christ-like Compassion:** *God is a defender of the poor, the weak, and the needy. So, we desire to be a compassionate church, doing justice in the world and showing mercy to the world. Like Jesus, we want to resist oppression wherever it exists and relieve suffering wherever it is found.*

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) There were a number of Scriptures presented throughout the service that had to do with justice, both in the sermon and apart from the sermon. **[Q]** How did any of those passages challenge you in connection with what was taught in the sermon?
  - a. Call to Worship passage – Psalm 146:1-2, 5-9
  - b. Public Reading of Scripture passage – Matthew 25:31-46
  - c. Call to Confession passage – James 2:14-17 (also in the sermon)
  - d. Passages referenced in the sermon:
    - i. Matthew 23:23 (neglecting the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faithfulness)
    - ii. 1 John 3:17 (if you close your heart to your brother in need, how does God’s love abide in you?)
    - iii. Leviticus 19:15 (do no injustice; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great)
    - iv. Deuteronomy 1:17 (you shall hear the small and great alike; you shall not be intimidated by anyone)
    - v. Deuteronomy 16:19 (you shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality)
    - vi. Deuteronomy 27: 19 (cursed be anyone who perverts the justice due to the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow)
    - vii. Genesis 1:27 (all people made in the image of God)
  
- 2) In the outline of the sermon, the first section was about a danger to avoid. Bart suggested that, ultimately, the primary danger to be avoided is the danger of hell. He went on to say, “If we are unconcerned about the poor, if we’re content to come to church on Sundays and wash our hands of the world the rest of the week, if we give no thought to the needy, have no compassion for the vulnerable, have no time for the destitute or lonely, if we sit comfortably

with injustice and even perpetuate injustice around us, the problem is not with our understanding of social justice but the condition of our souls. We may not be born again.”

- a. [Q] What did this point and even this specific quote make you think about?
  - b. [Q] Who are you prone to overlook and be unconcerned for?
- 3) After doing some background teaching on the rest of Micah, Bart summed up that Micah 6:6-8 illustrates the difference between pure religion versus perverted religion, or something he called a transactional faith (a debt we pay to God to earn our place with him) versus a transformational faith (a life resurrected by God).
- a. [Q] In what ways do you find your thinking and doing defaulting into a transactional faith (really a perverted religion)?
  - b. [Q] How can you specifically apply the gospel to those situations?
- 4) In a powerful portion of the sermon, Bart stated that justice is not a political left or right issue, but a kingdom issue, and that if our faith never contradicts our politics, it is not because of the rightness of our party but because of blind spots in our faith.
- a. [Q] Where are your personal political leanings challenged by the truth and justice implications of the gospel?
- 5) On the parable of the Good Samaritan, we quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said, “The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But the good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’” Bart went on to say that our participation in justice is not just about the avoidance of injustice, but about the affection we ought to have for those suffering injustice.
- a. [Q] How did this challenge you?

#### Final Question:

- 6) [Q] In your own life, what were you led to think of in the final section with the following points?
- a. Consider your heart.
    - i. [Q] Where is your heart at odds or indifferent to God’s heart for justice?
  - b. Consider your opportunities and your world’s needs.
    - i. [Q] What has God put specifically around you that he is calling you to?
  - c. Consider the Kingdom.
    - i. [Q] What does the rival vision of God’s Kingdom say to the world around you that you may have accepted as normal or irredeemable?