

Will Not God Give Justice?

Sunday: 8/13/2023 – Esther 7-8 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli



"Let us take responsibility to pursue justice while trusting God to right wrongs and give true justice for his people."

Overview

This week Pastor Lenard shared with us the reversals in the story of Esther in chapters 7 & 8. Esther revealed her identity and Haman's plan and in this part of God's story we caught a picture of God's justice. We are reminded that we all long for true justice but we are also reminded that God's justice can be described as "the already and not yet." We learn that there will be times when there is no perceived justice but it is in those very times that we are to remember that everything occurs according to the all-good providence of God.

As we seek justice, Pastor Lenard warned us that we must be careful that we don't make the mistake of trying to read the Bible in light of our ethics but instead we let the Bible inform our ethics and form us. One example given by Pastor Lenard was the death penalty. We understand that in cases where this penalty applies that it upholds that the victim was created in the image of God but likewise the penalty upholds the dignity of the person who acted in cold blood to murder.

The sermon challenged us to pursue justice but also to wait on God for his ultimate justice. In this tension of the pursuit of justice and the waiting on God we are reminded to be thankful and trust in Jesus for our own justification before God.

Sermon Outline:

1. God's Enemy revealed and executed (7:1-10)
2. God's justice decreed and given (8:1-14)
3. God's People honored and rejoicing (8:15-17)

Sermon Implications:

1. Let us take responsibility to pursue justice.
2. Let us wait on God for final justice.
3. Let us trust in Jesus Christ and be justified.

Corroborating Texts

Luke 18:1-8, Romans 13:4, Genesis 9:5-6, Acts 17:31, Romans 12:19-21, 1 Peter 2:22-23, Exodus 34:6-7, 1 Peter 2:24-25,

Discussion Questions

1. In this passage Esther had to step out in courage and faith with her message to the King and Haman had his sins exposed.
 - a. Can you describe a time when you had to step out in faith (how did you feel)?
 - b. How should Haman have responded?
2. Pastor Lenard stated that we must be careful that we don't make the mistake of trying to read the Bible in light of our ethics but instead we let the Bible inform our ethics and form us.
 - a. In your own words what is Pastor Lenard saying?
 - b. What are specific topics where we get this wrong?
3. What does it look like for you to pursue justice in your life?
 - a. How can you pursue justice while heeding Romans 12:19-21?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon or the passage?