

PRECEPT

MATTHEW 5:11-12

¹¹ God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. ¹² Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven.

ROMANS 12:19

¹⁹ Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, "I will take revenge, I will pay back, says the Lord."

PROMISE

During Jesus' time here on Earth, He too, in the flesh, have suffered injustice and the most unfair treatment anyone could ever experience. Despite what he experienced, He remains to be fair, just, and righteous in everything He does. We are to follow His example and overcome injustice while doing the right thing.

Global inequality is rampant and statistics say that 10% of the people on earth still live on less than \$2 a day, 14% have not learned how to read and write, 90% do not have a college or university degree or diploma, 60% do not have internet connection, 22% do not have a home to protect them from wind and rain, 11% do not have enough food to eat (1% would be dying of starvation), 9% do not have access to clean, safe drinking water. This can lead us to think that God might not care about these people, but the truth is He grieves about this. He was once part of this statistics, so He knows what these people are going through and He cares about them. In Canada, people go through different types of discrimination; on age, gender, race, religion, disability, etc. Philip Yancey said, "*We tend to think, 'Life should be fair because God is fair.' But God is not life. And if I confuse God with the physical reality of life, then I set myself up for crashing disappointment.*" We have to accept the sad reality that life is not fair. At the same time, we have to be aware of the amazing truth that our God is just. He is fair in everything He does. He knows and cares about social injustice, any form of inequality, or any unfair situation we have experienced in our lives. The Psalmist declared these words in the last verse of Psalm 98, "*He will judge the world fairly; He will judge the people with fairness.*" The reason why God is fair is that He knows everything, and He sees everything. In the story of the Israelites, they experience extreme harshness from the Egyptians; they made them work ruthlessly and made their lives bitter. They experienced oppression, injustice, inequality, and all sorts of discrimination. One day, the Lord appeared to Moses in the form of a Burning Bush and He said, "*I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain.*" (Exodus 3:7) God is fair, even if the world is not, because He sees, He hears, and He knows everything. Let us rest on this fact in whatever injustice we are going through today, that He is doing something about it for your own good. In Exodus chapter 4 to 12, God repeatedly said, "*Let My people go*" 42 times. From this we know that He is not a passive God, He is actively involved in our lives, and He is fighting for us. He is not only our Creator, but He is also our Deliverer. 1 John 4:4 tells us, "*Dear children, you belong to God. So you have won the victory over these people, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*" Knowing who we are in Jesus must give us the motivation, inspiration, and determination, in fighting every kind of oppression. We can overcome injustice because our hope and trust is in Him.

PRACTICE

1. Just God. Do you believe that God is just and fair? Why or why not?

2. Injustice Everywhere. In what ways have you experienced injustice as a Christian and how did God help you overcome it?

PRAYER

I. South Life Connections

- Pray for the Drapeza couple as they lead the South groups. Pray also that we will be able to reach out to more people.

II. East Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the East groups: Domingo, Torres, and Imperial.

III. North Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the North groups: Ocampo and Ico.

IV. West Life Connections

- Pray for these couples as they lead the West groups: Solidum, Fabregas, Oliveros.

V. Downtown Life Connections

- Pray for the Gamboa couple as they lead the Downtown group. Pray also for God to raise up more leaders.

VI. Leaders

- Pray for courage and provisions as they lead our brethren and spread God's love.

VII. Members

- Pray that each of our church members will use their spiritual gifts to serve each other and the church.