

HOME GROUPS

Discussion Questions for *Acts 25 - Justice in this Place* Week of May 2nd - 8th, 2010

Warm Up Share again how Jesus has encouraged you this past week.

- In **Acts 25** we see how the Jewish rulers want Paul killed for his doctrine and yet they are under Roman justice. Paul was safer under Romans concerned with justice than with the people of God without it! What lessons can you draw from this?
- Justice itself flows from the very character of God Almighty. When He gave the Ten Commandments He was giving us the definition of what is right and good. God gives us the basis for his commands when He says: “**I am the Lord your God**” (**Exodus 20:2**). In other words, these commands exist *because* He is the Lord! When discussing issues of justice, therefore, we must always come back to the character and attributes of God. When you typically think about justice are God’s attributes typically your starting point? Why or why not?
- Sometimes God’s rule does not *appear* to be just. Read **Psalm 73** aloud. What does this Psalm have to say about justice? Be specific. What does the Psalmist conclude about justice when he goes into the “**sanctuary of God**” (see v. **17-20; 27**)? What does this teach you personally about perspective in life when it comes to issues of justice?
- Millard Erickson writes, “...love and justice have worked together in God’s dealing with the human race. God’s justice requires that there be payment of the penalty for sin. God’s love, however, desires humans to be restored to fellowship with him. The offer of Jesus Christ as the atonement for sin means that both the justice and the love of God have been maintained. And there really is no tension between the two. There is tension only if one’s view of love requires that God forgive sin without any payment being made.” (Christian Theology. p. 324-325) Discuss this relationship between the love and justice of God.
 - Have you heard people question God’s justice based on their misunderstanding of how these two attributes relate with one another? How so? How would you describe the relationship between God’s love and justice to someone asking?

Wrap Up: As you close in prayer, praise God for His offer of Christ as the atonement for your sins. To fulfill His just administration of the law, God’s love was so great that He gave His Son for us! God is both righteous and loving, and has *Himself* given what he demands.