
NOW & THEN

Lesson 4



Living in the Justice of the Kingdom

Primary Scripture: Micah 6:8; Psalm 73 (NLT)

Purpose of This Guide

This guide is designed to move you from understanding God's Kingdom to actively participating in it, by learning what it means to live out His justice in a world that is not yet fully restored.

1. The Problem We Experience

Many people are comfortable believing in God's Kingdom but uncertain how it should shape their lives. We affirm that God is just, that He cares about righteousness, and that His Kingdom is good. But when we look at the world, we see injustice, inequality, and people who prosper through wrongdoing. This creates tension—not just intellectually, but practically. If God is just, why does injustice continue? And more importantly, what does He expect from us in the middle of it? Many believers reduce faith to personal morality or private spirituality, separating it from how they live in the world. But Scripture does not allow that separation. The presence of God's Kingdom demands participation, not observation.

We believe:

- God is just
- God's Kingdom is good
- God calls people to righteousness

And yet:

- Injustice continues
- The wicked often prosper
- Doing what is right can feel costly

The question is not whether God is just.

The question is whether we will live like it.

2. What God Actually Requires (Micah 6:8)

Micah 6:8 is one of the clearest statements in Scripture about what God expects from His people. It removes ambiguity and reduces faith to three essential actions: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. This is not presented as an ideal for a few committed individuals—it is the baseline expectation for anyone who belongs to God. Justice here is not abstract or theoretical. It is active. It requires action, not agreement. Mercy is not occasional kindness; it is a posture toward others shaped by God's own compassion. Humility is not weakness; it is a recognition



that we live under God's authority, not our own preferences. Together, these form a life that reflects God's Kingdom in the present.

Read: Micah 6:8

Key Truths:

- Justice is something you do, not something you support in theory
- Mercy is something you love, not something you occasionally extend
- Humility is how you live before God, not how you appear before others

Reflection

Where have you reduced faith to belief or intention instead of action?

Before moving on, name one specific situation in your life where justice, mercy, or humility is required of you right now. Do not keep this general.

This will be the focus for the rest of this session.

3. The Tension of Justice in a Broken World (Psalm 73)

Psalm 73 gives voice to a frustration many people feel but do not always express. The psalmist observes that the wicked often prosper while those who seek to live rightly struggle. This creates a crisis of perspective. If God is just, why does the world not reflect it more clearly? The psalmist does not hide this tension—he names it directly. He admits that it almost caused him to lose his footing. This is important because it shows that wrestling with injustice is not a failure of faith. It is part of seeing the world honestly. The turning point comes when the psalmist reorients himself in the presence of God. He begins to see that what appears stable is not ultimate, and what feels costly is not wasted. Justice is not absent—it is not yet fully revealed.

Read: Psalm 73

Key Truths:

- The prosperity of the wicked is real, but temporary



- God’s justice is certain, even when delayed
 - Perspective changes when we see from God’s vantage point
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Reflection

Where are you tempted to measure truth by what appears successful instead of what God has declared to be right?

4. Justice Is Not Optional Participation

The Kingdom of God is not only something we believe in—it is something we are called to live out. This means that justice is not optional for the believer. It is not reserved for certain people or specific situations. It is the natural expression of a life aligned with God. Many people avoid this by redefining justice as something distant or institutional. Scripture brings it into the everyday. Justice includes how we treat people, how we respond to need, how we handle power, and how we act when it costs us something. To belong to God is to represent Him. If His character includes justice, then our lives must reflect it.

Justice is not:

- An opinion
- A preference
- A reaction

Justice is:

- A pattern of living
 - A reflection of God’s character
 - A response to what is right, not what is easy
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Reflection

Where are you aware of what is right, but choosing what is easier?



5. Living Between What Is Right and What Is Real

The tension of this session is not just understanding justice—it is living it in a world where it is not consistently rewarded. We are called to act justly in a world that does not always value justice. This means that obedience will sometimes feel costly, unnoticed, or ineffective. But Scripture never defines faithfulness by results. It defines it by alignment with God. The Kingdom is present, but not complete. That means we will not always see the full impact of what we do. But that does not remove responsibility—it clarifies it. We act not because outcomes are guaranteed, but because God's character is clear.

NOW (Already True)

- God's justice is real
- God's standards are clear
- God's Kingdom has begun
- You are called to reflect His character

THEN (Not Yet Complete)

- Justice is not consistently upheld
- Righteousness is not always rewarded
- Injustice still exists
- The full expression of God's Kingdom is still coming

Reflection

Where are you waiting for conditions to be right before choosing to act rightly?

6. Why This Requires Action, Not Agreement

It is possible to agree with everything in this session and still not live differently. That is the danger. Agreement requires no change. Participation does. Scripture does not call people to admire justice—it calls them to practice it. This means that every person must decide whether their faith will remain internal or become visible. The gap between what we believe and how we live is where most spiritual stagnation occurs. Growth happens when belief becomes action. The question is no longer, "Do I agree with this?" but "Where will I live this out?"



Reflection

Where is God asking you to move from agreement to action?

7. Formation Practice (This Week)

Practice: Act Justly in One Specific Way

Each day this week, follow this pattern:

Step 1 — Identify One Area of Injustice or Need

This may be:

- A person being overlooked
- A situation where truth is being ignored
- A place where you have influence but have not acted

Do not change this throughout the week.

Step 2 — Define What Is Right

Ask:

- What does justice look like here?
- What would mercy require?
- What would humility look like before God?

Write it clearly.

Step 3 — Take One Concrete Action

Do something specific—not theoretical.

This must involve cost, effort, or discomfort.

Step 4 — Repeat Daily



Return to the same situation.
Do not move on until action has been taken.

Daily Prayer

Lord,
Do not let my faith remain in words.
Teach me to live what You have made clear.
Give me the courage to act justly,
the heart to love mercy,
and the humility to walk with You.
Amen.

8. Living It Out

Write one situation where you know action is needed:

Write what justice requires in this situation:

Write what you will do this week:

Return to this daily.

Faith is not proven by what you believe.
It is revealed by how you live.

Final Note

God has already made His will clear.

The question is not whether we understand it.

The question is whether we will live it.

The Kingdom is not only something you wait for.

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It is something you are called to practice—now.

