

Day 10 Devotional - Righteousness for Today - 13/01/2023

(Read Isaiah 11:1-10)

The New Testament is all about righteousness, and righteousness is not religious piety (merely observing rules and being charitable). It is about honesty, transparency, personal integrity, faithfulness in relationships, justice seeking in the world, and compassion and mercy toward the other, especially concern for the marginalised in society.

We could look back to the prophet Isaiah for insight and wisdom on this. He describes a prophetic eschatological vision in Isaiah 11:4-10 where a Davidic king will bring peace and justice to the world. He will take concern for the poor "with righteousness" and "with justice" consider the meek of the earth. For Isaiah and Matthew, the blessed hope of peace on earth will not happen by chance or sheer human effort. It will take LEADERSHIP and guidance, judgement and reckoning - it will take a KING. And as Isaiah says, "Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins" (Isa 11:4-5).

Part of Jesus's message about the gospel of the kingdom is that seeking what is right as of first importance actually leads people down the WRONG path. Just looking at the news, we can see there are too many overwhelming problems to solve in the world - with so many proposed "solutions" - who knows who is right? Jesus says, don't worry. Turn your attention away from worry and toward God. SEEK first HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS. That means, trust Messiah Jesus, WALK with him, follow in his footsteps - then all the other things will fall into place. You won't solve all the problems of the world with the snap of a finger, but you will know you are going in the right direction when it comes to "righteousness." (The Lord is my Shepherd... He will lead me in paths of righteousness)

In Galatians 5:16-17, Paul writes - "But I say, WALK by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."

ASK, SEEK and KNOCK: Dear Heavenly Father, lead me through your Holy Spirit of wisdom and revelation, counsel and power, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. Let me be filled with your Spirit, baptise me IN your Spirit afresh. LEAD me in your paths of righteousness by your Spirit. (Pray in tongues as you ask, seek and knock).

ACTION: Help out at our 'SOUL-FULL' food parcel program on Saturday mornings. We help deliver and feed over 60 people each week (Contact John Cruice on 0466 354 065).

Link to all devotionals: icbrisbane.org/journaling