

The righteousness envisaged by Isaiah, King David the Psalmist, and Jesus, are not merely abstract activities of doing good and right things in the world. Although those things are important, in many cases the righteousness they are referring to focuses on having "Right" RELATIONSHIPS with others.

This is eminently modelled by God himself. As often as Israel praises God's righteousness, they especially recognise HIS COVENANT FAITHFULNESS toward them. For example, in Psalm 143 David calls upon God to be MERCIFUL and not judge him for his sins, "FOR NO ONE LIVING IS RIGHTEOUS BEFORE YOU" (143:2). David dares to ask for compassion and forgiveness from the Lord because he is the covenant God. So, he says, "Give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness" (143:1). Sometimes we misunderstand righteousness by thinking it is a kind of robotic commitment to rules and moral laws. But because it is DEEPLY RELATIONAL, it is also messy. That leads us to the next dimension of righteousness - "right compassion" which we will look at tomorrow.

MEDITATE: Ps 143:2 No one is righteous before God. We have all fallen short of His perfection and holiness. We must humble ourselves and trust in Jesus as our righteous saviour king.

PRAY: Thank you Jesus, for your amazing covenantal love and faithfulness towards us. You are faithful even when I am not. Through your Holy Spirit, fill me with your righteousness, peace, and joy. May faith, hope and love overflow in my life to everyone around me. Holy Spirit produce your fruit and character in me - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Link to all devotionals: iccbrisbane.org/journaling