

St John's Meads – Home Groups

God Judges: Injustice



Review: After the golden age of 'kingship' under David and Solomon, the people of God were often poorly led. God speaks through Jeremiah at a resultant time of turmoil in the history of Judah – sandwiched between the great powers of Babylon to the North and Egypt to the South. God's desire to have his people live as he would wish, under his reign and in restored relationship with him, is unmet and he exposes the failings of new kings.



Discuss:

- Read Jeremiah 22:13-17. What do we learn about Jehoiakim (Shallum) and his leadership? How does Jeremiah contrast that with his father, Josiah? What are the outcomes for them both (review verse 18 onwards)?
- "He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me? declares the LORD" (verse 16). Why is the cause of justice for the poor and oppressed so critical to God? What other evidence can you think of for that assertion? Why then is it critical to us?
- What are the main injustices you perceive in society? Develop a list of ways in which any of us can make positive impacts on those injustices, from the local to the global. How can God's concern truly become ours? What change of heart could we start to have now?



Pray: Pray for those who suffer as a consequence of injustice in human trafficking, slave and child labour, political and religious oppression and other forms of injustice, including those which have touched you in some way...that they will be held by God in their pain.....and that the differences in prosperity, health and opportunity that exist in the world will be eroded through a change of heart in people and their elected governments. Give thanks that the Mission of God is not a message for the few but for all, and that we are all in God's circle of care. That he has the whole world in his hands. Pray for guidance and direction on what actions we personally and collectively can take to restore justice in a society that has lost its way....and that God will soften our own hearts to the needs that cry out in the world.