

MESSAGE NOTES

MARCH 6, 2022

6:8 | JUSTICE & MERCY IN ACTION

ISAIAH 58

INTRODUCTION

BIG IDEA: When my love for God isn't coupled with a love for my neighbor, I'm nothing more than a rebel disguised as a worshipper.

OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND TO ISAIAH 58 (cf ISAIAH 1)

- Isaiah 1:2-6
- *"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness."* (Matthew 23:27-28)

1. The Charge: Whitewashed tombs! (Isaiah 58:1-5)

- **LESSON:** When my love for God isn't coupled with a love for my neighbor, I'm nothing more than a rebel disguised as a worshipper. James says, "faith without works is dead!" (James 2:26).

2. The Change: "Washed White" (Isaiah 6-7)

- **LESSON:** Justice is not simply about doing the right thing, it's about addressing that which isn't right—about righting wrongs.
- This is Justice and Mercy in Action!
 1. Loosen the chains of injustice
 2. Set the oppressed free
 3. Break every yoke, so that injustice can't be repeated
 4. Share your food with the hungry
 5. Provide shelter for the poor wanderer
 6. Clothe the naked
 7. Don't turn away from your own flesh and blood

3. The Results (Isaiah 8-15)

1. A new beginning of witness for God (cf Matthew 5:16, 2:5, 49:6, 51:4; 60:1-3).
2. An authentic, real relationship with God—no more veneer.
3. You will flourish and prosper—so too will God's work in this world.
4. Joy and victory!

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Celebrate where we are living this out as a church and join in if you aren't.
2. Join in:
 - a. Give: To the ministry fund to help us support our partners and benevolence to help people going through crisis.
 - b. Donate: Fill the Van—bring toiletries; Boomerangs—donate clothes. Challenge: Sort through your closet for unused winter clothes and donate them!
 - c. Mentor or Volunteer: Door of Hope (STEM); Partner Schools
 - d. On Exploiting Workers: Is your compensation fair? Is it generous? Ask God to open your eyes at work and school for opportunities to act justly and love mercy.
3. Whitewashed or washed white?

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18; cf 1 John 1:9)

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* (Micah 6:8)