

# Beautiful Justice

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Pastor GL Wong

While most recognise the good in doing justice, the hard work and sacrifice demotivates people to do so. An outlook of restorative justice as extraordinarily beautiful will help us recognise doing justice as good and desirable.

Discover the beauty of justice in:

## 1. The richness of the gospel

A common understanding of the gospel revolves around, through the death and resurrection of Christ on the cross, being saved and forgiven, and declared righteous by God by grace through faith. While all of that is true, in Isaiah (the most quoted prophetic book in the New Testament), the term 'good news' is richer; the gospel is the message of God's comprehensive restorative kingdom. The gospel is tied to the declaration of God's reign (Isa. 52:7). The beauty of justice is found in the richness of the gospel. A profoundly rich view of the gospel has huge implications as we live out the abundance of eternal life as sojourners from earth to heaven. The gospel declares that the restorative reign of God has come, and His kingdom plans include restorative justice. The doing of justice that flows out from the appreciation of the gospel is a sign of a proper appreciation of the richness of the gospel.

The Servant of the Lord was specifically bringing the good news to the poor, broken-hearted, and bound (vv.1-2); metaphors that point to oppressed Israel and the coming of God's restorative justice. Jesus Christ declared Himself to be the Servant of the Lord that has come to bring good news and restorative justice to both the spiritually and physically oppressed (Luke 4). God's restorative reign is meant to impact both the spiritually and physically poor (Matt. 5:3,

Luke 6:20). The beauty of justice is found in the richness of the gospel that comprises both the spiritual and physical.

## 2. The heart of God's love

It is in God's heart of love for people that we see His love for justice. God declared that he would bless Israel by restoring His everlasting covenant with them (v8). Jesus reveals (Luke 4) that the heart of God's love for the beautiful renewal goes deeper and wider than Israel – the good news of restorative justice and everlasting covenant is not just for the ethnic Jews but also the nations around the world. We need to see the beauty of justice in the heart of God's love for the people, communities, cities and nations. We need to behold Christ and what He has done on the cross. We need to see that on the cross, we ourselves are at the heart of God's love for people. It is through Jesus that we can see the beauty of true justice and turn away from injustice.

## 3. The reality of your life

Isaiah 61 ends with a personal response to God – a man expresses exuberant joy for receiving salvation and righteousness as the gift of God (v10). When we appreciate what Jesus has lavishly done to save us, we can live out the righteousness and justice of God (v11). This too is the gift of God, for it is God Himself doing justice in and through us. The beauty of justice is not something we merely appreciate by reading the Bible or thinking conceptually but something we experience in the reality of our lives. *You can't understand most of the important things in life from a distance...You have to get close.* We cannot understand restorative justice from a distance; we must get close.