

## DO YOU WANT JUSTICE?

**Sunday April 24 (Acts 14:21-27, PS 145: 8-13, REV 21: 1-5A, JN 13:31-33A, 34-35)**

Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the good news throughout their travels, though they realized that "it [was] necessary ... to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."



As children of Adam, hardships naturally result from the fall in the Garden of Eden. We take solace knowing that "the LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works."

God's "works" include all men and all women, no matter one's religion, color, gender, income level, or residence. The "new heaven and new earth," where "the sea [is] no more" is God's kingdom of heaven that humanity finally establishes here on earth; at that moment the sea no longer separates the two because our work is complete. Earth and heaven unite as one kingdom under God.

Many tools and many skills are needed to contribute to our building efforts. There is, however, one blueprint - the new commandment that Jesus gave to us: "love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."

As the Lord is compassionate to all his works and loves us, so must all brothers and sisters be compassionate toward each other.

Can building God's kingdom of justice be the half-hearted, part-time responsibility of a few? Can I just kick back and play with my grandson? Of course I can; I am tired; I am focused on another human being right in front of me.

I am not apathetic, I am tired. Apathy is a symptom of hopelessness and hopelessness is the seed of injustice. The moment I become apathetic is the moment I need to take pause and pray for a conversion from apathy to empathy. Prayer, faith, keeps us in hope. Hope is the antidote for injustice.

Do you want justice? Then become intentionally uncomfortable and get in the way. We Christians must get in the way as we proclaim the Good News; we may likely undergo hardships.

We don't have to save the world; Jesus already did that. We simply must have hope, continue proclaiming the Good News, and love one another.

While it is okay to be tired, we must work for justice until our work - God's work through us - is complete and the sea of injustice no longer separates heaven and earth. These may not be easy times (but are any times easy?), but we don't work for justice in easy times; we work for justice in difficult times; sometimes when we're tired.

We don't work for ourselves; we work for this generation; we work for the next generation. And the one after that (the one my grandson belongs to). We build with faith, hope, and love.



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