

Social Justice and the People of God

As Christians, we are called to be cognizant of the ways in which our society doesn't match the righteousness of God, and to be agents of change. With this in mind, we must keep the gospel as the primary motivation for social transformation.

Social Justice

☞ What is it?

☞ How does He do it?

God's social system

- Could gather crops from others' land (Ex 23:10)
- Gleaning (Lev. 19)
- Debts forgiven every 7 years (Deut 15:7-11)
- Law of redemption (Lev 25/Deut 15)
- More generally, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The Good Samaritan

- Luke 10:25-29 And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And He said to him, "**What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?**" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And He said to him, "**You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.**" But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
- **Luke 10:30-37** Jesus replied and said, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. "And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
- But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on *them*; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. On the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.' Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' *hands*?" And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

☞ An expression of our faith? (James 1:26)

What do I do?

- View the poor differently.
- Look at the opportunities around us
- ryanpoehl@grace-bible.org