

Character Trait for March 19-23 is Justice

Ephesians 5:1, "Therefore, be imitators of God"

CHARACTER: Qualities built into our lives that determine our responses, regardless of circumstances.

Justice: Taking responsibility to uphold what is pure, right and true.

Derivation: Jus•tice *n* 1: the quality of being just 2: the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action 3: impartiality; fair representation of the facts 4: sound reason; validity

Weekly Verse: Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Bible Stories:

Jesus himself was angry at the way the temple courtyard had been turned into a marketplace where traders made money at other's expense - see Matthew 21:12-13

In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus equates acting justly for the poor, the weak and vulnerable with loving and serving God - see Matthew 25:31-45

Throughout his whole life, Jesus upheld the rights of the marginalized both in his stories and his miracles such as the outsider (the Good Samaritan); the outcast (the leper); the unfairly treated (women, children and non-Jews).

Isaiah the prophet called God's people to worship God by behaving justly towards others - see Isaiah 58:6-8.

Quote: Christ's death is the satisfaction for all of the injustices that people have committed or will commit.

Application: As we near Easter, spend time this week reflecting on the crucifixion and resurrection and how they satisfied God's desire for justice.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How does Easter demonstrate justice?
- 2) Is mercy the opposite of justice?
- 3) Is it possible to have justice outside of a Christian view? How would pure, right and true be determined?