

“Jesus and Injustice”

John #32

John 10:31-42

June 17, 2018

**Scripture Reading: John 10:31-42**

### **Introduction | Two Things About the Bible**

1. The Bible constantly references other material from the Bible
2. The Bible was written to address a group of interrelated problems
  - Sin: human rebellion against God<sup>2</sup>
  - Suffering: personal and impersonal<sup>2</sup>
  - Sorrow: internal emotional experience

\*\*Different churches, different focus

### **Context | John 9-10**

- John 9:1 — <sup>1</sup> As he was passing by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him: “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” Jesus answered. “This came about so that God’s works might be displayed in him.

### **I. Passage and Commentary**

Claims to Divinity | vs. 31-33

Jesus’ Response | vs. 34-36

Jesus’ Works | vs. 37-39

End of Scene | vs. 40-42

- Gary M. Burge — Jesus’ removal from Judea has as much to do with theology as with geography. He is leaving the area of conflict in Jerusalem and returning across the eastern deserts near the Jordan River where John the Baptist had worked. Jesus has come full circle. He has concluded his public ministry among his people and now it is time for him to “remain” until his hour does come. It is winter and in a few months he will appear in Jerusalem at Passover to be glorified as God has planned.

### **II. Unpacking Psalm 82**

- Interesting wordplay: Elohim — gods, angels, powerful beings, judges, rulers
- <sup>1</sup> *Elohim* stands in the divine assembly; he pronounces judgment among the *elohim*: <sup>2</sup> “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? ...<sup>6</sup> I said, “You are *elohim*; you are all sons of the Most High. <sup>7</sup> However, you will die like humans and fall like any other ruler.” <sup>8</sup> Rise up, Elohim, judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you.
- David Stern — Yeshua’s wordplay implies a rabbinic-style kal v’chomer argument **[simple-to-complex / stronger thing]**: if humans, who do evil works as they “judge unjustly” are *elohim*, how much more is Yeshua, who does good works, Elohim; and if

“all of you are sons of the Most High,” how much more does the description “Son of God” apply to Yeshua.

**Big Idea:** God has come to deal with injustice through Jesus, the good shepherd

### **III. What This Means**

1. Injustice is real
2. God deeply cares about injustice
3. Jesus experienced ultimate injustice
4. Those who are joined to Jesus are joined to his suffering
5. Those who are joined to Jesus are joined to his mission
  - a. Luke 4, via Isaiah 61:1-3
6. Earthly injustice, divine solutions

### **IV. Participating in Jesus' Justice | aka 10 Things Better Than Posting on Facebook**

1. Become a foster parent
2. Support a foster family
3. “Adopt” a single mom
4. Volunteer at the PRC
5. Donate money to REST
6. Don't watch pornography
7. Serve your neighborhood school
8. Develop relationship with local civic leaders
9. Do an international mission trip
10. Come to church

Erica VanEssendelft, Christian Reformed Church — Lord, you give us the unwavering call to do justice. You tell us to defend the cause of the fatherless and the widow. To love the foreigner residing among us. To provide for the hungry, thirsty, and naked. To love our enemy. But Lord, it is overwhelming. Do you not know that we are only human? May your Spirit fill us with hope. Remind us that we are enough in you, so that in all things, we will follow your will, and take up the call to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you.

### **Benediction**

Luke 4 <sup>18</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.