Manoeuvring Through Injustice Romans 8:22-28

Injustice. A lack of fairness?

- Injustice is not about trivial matters.
- Injustice is about:
 - Matters that may devastate us.
 - Matters that may take years to sort out.
 - Matters that cannot be controlled by us.
- Deception, dishonesty, unnecessary killings, false accusations, oppression of poor and needy.

What then is Justice?

Order that God seeks to re-establish in His creation where all people receive the benefits of life with Him.

How do we react?

Do we feel sad?

Is it ok to feel angry?

Should we pray for the attackers?

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights commented:

"Shooting children as they try to run to safety with their families - there are no words of condemnation strong enough for such despicable acts."

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted.

HABAKKUK 1:2-4

Jesus Christ faced the greatest injustice.

We need to hear from God and then give Biblical advice regarding injustice.

1. God's Sovereignty

Romans 8:23-25

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

This groaning is a hope and a longing for the day that God makes all things right.

"For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."

HABAKKUK 2:3

Evildoers will eventually be punished and the righteous will see God's justice in the end.

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Jeremiah 9:24

I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.

2. God's Forgiveness

We should not have anger that is filled with hatred; but a righteous anger.

Ephesians 4:26-27

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil.

It is not our role to punish someone committing injustice. We can leave that to God as He is the fair judge who knows all things.

Wrongly imprisoned

Do we want to respond to injustice with forgiveness in the same manner as that man who faced it himself?

Ephesians 4:31-32

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. We are sinners that need to come to God daily.

We are people that are overcoming our evil with the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. God's Promises

Romans 12:19

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

We can strengthen each other's faith in God's promises by giving Biblical advice.

Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

The faithful in God must wait patiently while trusting in His promises.

We are also called to speak up for those who may not have a strong voice in society; such as the poor being treated unfairly.

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

As people of God, we need to pray for:

 The people suffering injustice who do not yet know God.

The ones who commit injustice.

Responding with application of the knowledge of:

God's Sovereignty God's Forgiveness God's Promises Justice is God's.

He will make all things right in the end.