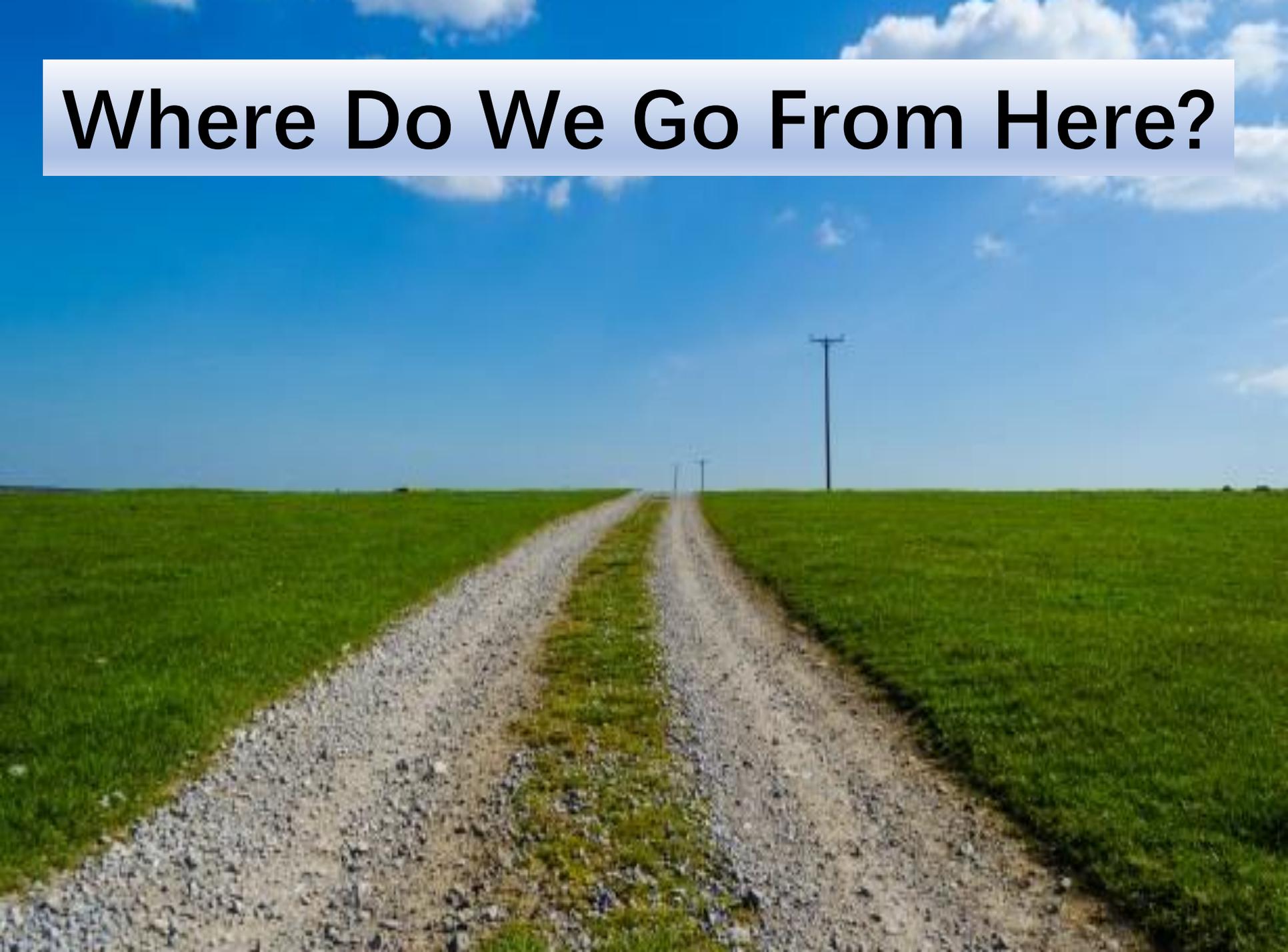


Where Do We Go From Here?



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That we may become partakers of God's divine Nature. – 2 Peter 1

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It was because in our society naming something a “justice issue” is a kind of trump card. If you are arguing against someone who suddenly proclaims that his position is the one that promotes justice, there is no defense.

Timothy Keller “*Generous Justice – How God Makes Us Just*”
(Riverhead Books)

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The fact is that the word “justice” does not have a definition in our culture that we can all agree on. So we just use it as bludgeon.

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When a man is getting better, he understands more and more clearly the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse, he understands his own badness less and less. A moderately bad man knows he is not very good. A thoroughly bad man thinks he is alright.

C.S. Lewis "*Mere Christianity*" (C.S. Lewis Private Limited)

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I should have been reminded that disappointment produces despair and despair produces bitterness, and that the one thing certain about bitterness is its blindness. Bitterness has not the capacity to make the distinction between some and all. When some members of a dominate group, particularly those in power, are evil in attitude and practice, bitterness accuses the whole group.

Martin Luther King, Jr “*Where do we go from here, Chaos or community?*”
(Beacon Press)

Three things I believe I've learned



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2. The “ripple” effect of an injustice can last years, decades and even generations.

3. There is a huge difference between the Biblical view of justice and society's view of justice

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The Biblical teaching that a true experience of the grace of Jesus Christ inevitably motivates a man or a woman to seek justice in the world.

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The Bible is a book devoted to justice in the world from first to last. And the Bible gives us not just the naked call to care about justice, but gives us everything we need – motivation, guidance, inner joy, and power – to live a just life.

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The word justice in one form or another is found in more the half the books in the Bible.

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I have found that I can not use the atheistic argument of a cruel and unjust God because that would require there was something outside of us that defined what injustice was.

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Without God as the author of justice, it becomes a matter of consensus.

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So what is Biblical justice?

Where Do We Go From Here?

Because I delivered the poor who cried for help,
and the orphan who had no helper. The blessing
of the one ready to perish came upon me, and I
made the widow's heart sing for joy. I put on
righteousness, and it clothed me; **My justice was
like a robe and a turban.** I was eyes to the blind
and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy,
And I investigated the case which I did not know.
I broke the jaws of the wicked. And snatched the
prey from his teeth. - Job 29:12-17

Where Do We Go From Here?

If a man does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, does not commit robbery, but gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with clothing, If he does not lend money on interest or take increase, if he keeps his hand from iniquity and **executes true justice between man and man**, if he walks in My statutes and My ordinances so as to deal faithfully - he is righteous and will surely live,” declares the Lord GOD. - Ezekiel 18:7-9

Where Do We Go From Here?

Thus says the LORD, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the LORD. - Jeremiah 9:23-24

If you could go back in time, when would you want it to be?

MONTH DAY YEAR HOUR MIN
APR 02 2016 AM 12:00
PM

DESTINATION TIME

MONTH DAY YEAR HOUR MIN
MAR 16 2016 AM 09:28
PM

PRESENT TIME

MONTH DAY YEAR HOUR MIN
MAY 01 1947 AM 08:00
PM

LAST TIME DEPARTED

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. And when He stood up to read, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written: (Jesus reads from Isaiah 61)

“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then He rolled up the scroll, returned it to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him, and He began by saying, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” - Luke 4:16-21

Where Do We Go From Here?

Here is My Servant, whom I uphold, My Chosen One, in whom My soul delights. I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations.

He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the streets.

A bruised reed He will not break and a smoldering wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice.”

Isaiah 42:1-3

Biblical Justice Is:

- Good News to the poor
- Liberty for the captives
- Recovery of sight to the blind
- Release for the oppressed
- Proximity of the Lord's favor
- It is done gently to bring along the weak

When we talk about Biblical Justice:

- **It is constructive not destructive**
- **It is Protecting the vulnerable**
- **Gently restoring people's worth and dignity**
- **Giving people what they need and not what they deserve**

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If Act Justly is the what; then To Love Mercy is the how.

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What is needed is a realization that power without love is reckless and abusive and that love without power is sentimental and anemic. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.

Martin Luther King, Jr *"Where do we go from here, Chaos or community?"*
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Mercy doesn't come free. It involves forgiveness that is often painful.

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Who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but **emptied Himself**, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross. -
Philippians 2:6-8

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We need to be like Jesus and empty ourselves of our pride and prejudices.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Nothing can be more diabolical than a deliberate attempt to destroy in any man his will to be a man and to withhold from him that something which constitutes his true essence.

Martin Luther King, Jr “*Where do we go from here, Chaos or community?*
(Beacon Press)



Where Do We Go From Here?

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

- Ephesians 4:29

Where Do We Go From Here?

All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be.

Martin Luther King, Jr *“Where do we go from here, Chaos or community?”*
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