

Pastor David's notes for 6/26-27/2010

## Unstoppable Life

# Unstoppable Justice

"Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Amos 5:23-24

"Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Isaiah 9:5-7

"In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD."

Hosea 2:18-20

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"Unstoppable Justice"

The Bible describes God's justice as a rushing river which cannot be diverted, which one day will cleanse creation of all violence, wickedness, greed and injustice. God's justice will inevitably and unstoppably:

1. reverse every wrong
2. vanguish all injustice and evil
3. vindicate righteousness and truth

The unstoppable reality of God's justice is meant to inspire and enable us to live by faith with:

1. Christ's counsel
2. Christ's confidence
3. Christ's courage

next weekend: "Unstoppable Life" - Unstoppable glory



# CONNECTION QUESTIONS

for personal study & individual reflection,  
and small group discussion & comment

“Unstoppable Justice” - Amos 5:21-24; Isaiah 9:5-7; Micah 6:8;  
Hosea 2:18-20; Proverbs 29:7; Isaiah 42:1-9;  
Romans 3:19-26; 1 Peter 2:19-25

1. The prophet Amos speaks a word of judgment to God’s people which rejects religion without reality and calls them to “let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (Amos 5:24). It is God’s full intention to conclude our personal and collective history in this world with the triumph of justice, and it is His invitation for us to embrace justice in its rolling, tumultuous progress before we reach that final goal. Why do we struggle to understand and embrace real justice? Is justice simply equality and fairness, or is it something more? Is it possible to get wrapped up in religious experiences and expressions, but lose sight of what is most important to God (Luke 11:42)?

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2. The prophet Isaiah looked forward to the coming of the Messianic King for the fulfillment of God’s unstoppable purpose to establish His Kingdom, His family, on a forever foundation of justice (Isa 9:5-7; 16:4-5; 42:1-9; 51:1-6). In the establishment of justice there is a reset of what is right and true, and a removal or reversal of what is wrong and unjust. How would you rate the level of justice in the world around you today? Is our hope for the progress of justice focused on policies or programs, or like Isaiah, on the person of Christ?

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3. Every description of the final triumph of justice in the Bible includes the cessation of war and conflict, and the complete victory of love and truth in safety, security and peace. We live in a world where ‘safety, security and peace’ are essential but elusive. How do we make sure that we pursue these essential and ultimate things in a way that is just and right? How are we tempted to believe that getting to the end of safety and security justifies any and every means?

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4. We are called to face and fight injustice differently than the world around us. We have a hope and guarantee that goes beyond this life, and we trust in the purpose and promise of God in Christ to lead us to that goal. Jesus went to the cross for man’s injustice and God’s justice, “entrusting himself to him who judges justly” (1 Pet 2:21-23). What are you having to face in your life right now that requires you to trust and wait for “Him who judges justly”. What does this trust require us to believe about our circumstances and how things appear?

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5. When injustice and evil are combined with power and opportunity we have to face that threat with courage. Following Jesus does not mean being without fear, it means overcoming and displacing fear with a stronger heart of honor and love. Jesus is the model, inspiration and source of our courage, and we reach for justice and righteousness not with the world’s fear or hatred, but with His love and faith. How is God calling you to fight that “good fight” today?

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