

Justice as Spiritual Discipline

Isaiah 58:1-12

- Verse 2: “they seek me daily and delight to know my ways... they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God”
- Verse 1: “declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.”
- What’s the right way to do spiritual disciplines?

1. The Wrong Way to do Spiritual Disciplines

(vv. 1-5)

- Verse 3: “Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?”
- Verses 3-5: “Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist.”
- Verse 5: “Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the LORD?”

2. The Right Way to do Spiritual Disciplines (vv. 6-10)

- Verse 6: “loose (release) the bonds of wickedness (injustice)”
- Verse 6: “let the oppressed go free”
- Verse 6: “break every yoke”
- Verse 7: care for the hungry, the homeless, and the naked
- Verse 10: “pour yourself out for the hungry”

2. The Right Way to do Spiritual Disciplines (vv. 6-10)

Psalm 146

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

2. The Right Way to do Spiritual Disciplines (vv. 6-10)

- The right way is to love the vulnerable in our society as a normal part of our spiritual disciplines

3. True Spiritual Disciplines Result in Blessing

(vv. 8-12)

Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'

And the LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your desire in scorched places
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.
And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called "the repairer of the breach,"
"the restorer of streets to dwell in."

4. Jesus, the Perfecter of True Spiritual Disciplines

Luke 5:12-13

While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately the leprosy left him.

- **BIG IDEA:** The right way to do spiritual disciplines is to respond to Jesus' love for you by loving the vulnerable in our society.