



Hope and Healing in the Diocese of Albany

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What does it mean for us to care for the vulnerable?

Isaiah 56:1

Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.

Active Righteousness: The text calls for action ("Keep ye judgment, and do justice"). This means acting with integrity, fairness, and doing what is right, even when it is difficult.

Preparation for Salvation: [emphasizes justice and righteousness in preparation for salvation] It implies that because God's salvation is coming soon, people should live in a way that reflects that reality, often applied as a call to repentance or a return to holy living.

Inclusion in God's Family: The verse opens a chapter that welcomes outcasts, specifically eunuchs and foreigners, into God's covenantal family based on their obedience, not their background.

Jeremiah 22:3

Thus says the LORD: Do what is right and just. Rescue the victims from the hand of their oppressors. Do not wrong or oppress the resident alien, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Psalms 82:3

Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

This Psalm is a divine accusation against unjust judges (referred to as "gods") who fail to protect the vulnerable.

It highlights God's demand for social justice, specifically calling for the defense of the poor, orphans, and needy.

Proverbs 21:3

Do what is right and fair; that pleases the LORD more than bringing him sacrifices.

Emphasizes that moral integrity and justice are more valuable to God than empty ritualistic offerings. It highlights that righteous actions—doing what is right—are superior to external religious sacrifice.

Deuteronomy 16:20

Justice, justice alone shall you pursue, so that you may live and possess the land the LORD, your God, is giving you.

This verse is a central command to prioritize absolute fairness, specifically regarding the appointment of judges and the prohibition of bribes.

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Proverbs 31:8

Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.

This is a divine mandate to act as an advocate for the vulnerable, voiceless, and oppressed. It calls for using one's influence and voice to defend the poor, needy, and marginalized against injustice.

Matthew 23:1-3

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, the scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.

Jesus warns against following the actions of religious leaders who do not practice what they preach. Warning Against Hypocrisy.

Ephesians 5:11

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

This verse encourages Christians to avoid immoral behaviors and instead highlight them through righteous living

Matthew 23:5-7

They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi.

These verses describe how scribes and Pharisees performed religious duties to earn praise rather than out of genuine devotion.

Matthew 23:4

They tie up heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.

They ignore what is right, Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness that is pleasing to God.

Acts 4:34-35

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

This passage highlights the communal life and unity of the early church, where material possessions were shared to support fellow believers.

1 Corinthians 5:11

But I now write to you not to associate with anyone named a brother, if he is immoral, greedy, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunkard, or a robber, not even to eat with such a person.

Commands Christians not to associate with anyone who calls themselves a believer but lives in unrepentant sin—specifically greed, idolatry, sexual immorality, drunkenness, or thievery—and advises against even eating with such individuals.

Jeremiah 22:16:

Because he dispensed justice to the weak and the poor, he prospered. Is this not to know me?—oracle of the LORD.

This verse defines "knowing God" (true knowledge of the LORD) not just through ritual, but through active righteousness, justice, and defending the vulnerable.