

In the broadest terms ... mishpat [“justice:” v.8] is what needs to be done in a given situation if people and circumstances are to be restored to conformity with tsedeq/tsedaqah [“righteousness:” v. 5]. Mishpat is a qualitative set of actions--something you do. ... John Goldingay emphatically points out that the Hebrew words are concrete nouns, unlike the abstract nouns which English normally uses to translate them. That is, they are actual things that you do, not concepts that you reflect upon. (C. Wright, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*, p. 257.)

The metaphor of a father helping his children is useful in several aspects. A good father gives his children direct aid—he feeds them and protects them from danger. But a good father does not want his children to remain dependent on him forever. He wants them to grow up and become self-sufficient. So, too, helping the poor may begin with direct relief and protection, but the final goal should always be empowerment and self-sufficiency. To keep the poor dependent is paternalistic and unloving, and ultimately unjust. (Keller, *Generous Justice*, Kindle version, ch 1, fn #29)

This means, then, that Biblical righteousness is inevitably “social,” because it is about relationships. When most modern people see the word “righteousness” in the Bible, they tend to think of it in terms of private morality, such as sexual chastity or diligence in prayer and Bible study. But in the Bible tzadeqah refers to day-to-day living in which a person conducts all relationships in family and society with fairness, generosity, and equity. It is not surprising, then, to discover that tzadeqah and mishpat are brought together scores of times in the Bible. These two words roughly correspond to what some have called “primary” and “rectifying justice.” Rectifying justice is mishpat. It means punishing wrongdoers and caring for the victims of unjust treatment. Primary justice, or tzadeqah, is behavior that, if it was prevalent in the world, would render rectifying justice unnecessary, because everyone would be living in right relationship to everyone else. Therefore, though tzadeqah is primarily about being in a right relationship with God, the righteous life that results is profoundly social. (Keller, *Generous Justice*, ch 1)

June 2, 2013

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Testimony of Mission

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God’s Word: Scripture Reading *Micah 6.1-8*

6 Hear what the Lord says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the Lord.”

6 “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice [mishpat], and to love kindness [hesed], and to walk humbly with your God?

Understanding God’s Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Justice Driven by Loving Kindness

1. Unfaithfulness: God Speaking to You and You Speaking back (v.1-7)
2. Faithfulness: What is Faithful living with God, right now? (v.8)

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, may we be like Job who said:

If I have denied justice [mishpat] to my menservants and maidservants when they had a grievance against me, ...

If I have denied the desires of the poor or let the eyes of the widow grow weary, if I have kept my bread to myself, not sharing it with the fatherless ...

If I have raised my hand against the fatherless, knowing that I had influence in court, ...

These also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

(See Job 31, esp v. 13, 16-17, 21, 28)

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord. (Hosea 2.19-20)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2:16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Grace Hill Financial Information:

Average Monthly expenses:	\$14,400
May 2013 giving:	17,066
Average Monthly 2011 giving:	11,621
Average Monthly 2012 giving:	13,664
YTD operating budget balance:	(\$7360)

Announcements and Information:

- Pray for Backyard Bible Club, June 17 - 20, see Kaylyn Fernandez with any questions.
- Pray for Members of our Provisional Session:
 - Doug Chism: d-chism@triad.rr.com
 - Stephen Eckel: seckel@unch.unc.edu
 - Steve Brown: sjbrown1963@gmail.com
- Pray for our Congregational Committee
- Guys Conversations: Tuesday, June 4th, Radius Pizza, 8:00pm.



**Grace
Hill
Church**

Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

Our pastor is Ross Durham. He can be reached by email ross@gracehillchurch.net or by cell phone at 919.593.2169.

Our Worship Music Director is Michael Musser (mike@gracehillchurch.net) and our Children's Ministry Directors are Robyn Musser and Kaylyn Fernandez (robyn@ and kaylyn@gracehillchurch.net)

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