

## TUESDAY DEVOTION - GATEKEEPERS WORKCAMP 2017

**Isaiah 1:17: Learn to do good and seek justice: rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.**

**Matthew 5:38-48: “You have heard it said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. You have heard it said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax-collectors do the same?”**

If you turn on the tv at any time of day, you can find shows about people seeking justice: crime and detective dramas, courtroom reality shows, even superheroes who are saving the world from the evil villain. We live a world where justice is defined by getting even, seeking vengeance, and punishing those who have done wrong.

But it doesn't take us long to discover in the pages of Scripture that God's definition of justice is different from the one we see depicted on tv and movie screens and the one played out in courtrooms every day. God's justice is not about getting even or about keeping us in line with the “long arm of the law.” Instead, God's justice is about equity, wholeness and impartiality. It flows from God's heart and is rooted in love. Just as we seek God's mercy, and not what we deserve because of our sin, God's justice calls us to be merciful to others by loving and praying for our enemies, giving generously to those in need, and doing good for the most vulnerable among us.

How does the world understand things like fairness, justice, or people getting what they deserve? In what ways are these ideas different in God's kingdom? According to the Scripture passages above, how are we called to do justice this week? At school or work? In our community and world?

Pray for our city. Pray for those who are hurting because of financial hardship, physical disabilities, community divisions and tensions, family disputes, grief, loneliness, hopelessness. Pray for Gatekeepers volunteers, the congregations we represent, other agencies and ministries, and all those who are working to improve life in our city. Pray that God will give us the strength, courage and creativity to make a positive difference in the lives of others and to go wherever we are called to share Christ's love with our entire community and beyond. Pray that we might see God's presence at work among us today, and that the work we do might be the presence of God in someone else's life.