

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

November 12, 2023

The Dignity of Responsibility

I AM

Isaiah 1:17

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

learn to do good;

seek justice;

rescue the oppressed;

defend the orphan;

plead for the widow.

God invites each of us into the great joy of doing work in the world alongside Him. God could easily do the work himself of making the gospel known, seeing that justice is done, that families are made whole – but He has chosen instead to use people. **What is your memory of someone giving you the dignity of responsibility? How did this work that could have been done by someone else give you a sense of significance?**

In the early 1800s, the largest and most prosperous countries were operating in slavery. Passionate Christ-followers were invited into this dignity of responsibility, woke up the sleeping giant of the church, and slavery was abolished. But eventually, slavery evaded extinction by adaptation, took on forms that old laws did not address, and amassed in areas where new laws weren't enforced. With the population explosion of the 20th century, we find ourselves now with more enslaved people than ever, but with greatest capacity to know how to end it. **How do you think God is calling us to sound the alarm and do the practical work of raising awareness and resources? Do you think we could potentially see the 21st century as the time that ends slavery again?**

God gives us glimpses of His weighty work in the world, and invites us to step out with Him where He is seeking to bring His love to those who are hurting. Consider this quote by Frederick Douglas: "Let the people of God array their immense powers against slavery and slave holding, so that the whole system of crime and blood would be scattered to the winds." **Think about the ways we can learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow -- by starting with the following: keeping the conversation going, praying about it, look for where God is calling us into practical work.**