



Meeting Notes: How to Do Justice (January 28, 2015)

These notes capture our January 28, 2015 meeting. We opened our meeting in prayer and then began our evening. Topic notes may not be in the order discussed during group, and they are not intended to cover everything discussed. They are intended as highlights to capture the essence of our evening. General notes follow each topic that was discussed. Documents used or created during this meeting are attached.

GOD'S GOAL for the Group: For us to learn how to apply God's Word to our lives.

CURRENT VISION: ""2015 - Passing the Test From the Inside Out." Scripture Reference: **Psalm 51:10**, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me " (NKJV).

Closing the Loop: We took a few moments to capture more visions to help us better stay on course as we seek to pass the test of our faith from the inside out!

Discussion Topic: How to Do Justice

- **Setting the Stage.** During our June 26, 2013 and July 10, 2013 meetings¹ we discussed, "*How do you **DO** justice?*" This question came from **Micah 6:8**, "He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the Lord require of you But to **do justly**, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?" (NKJV) (emphasis added). To acknowledge the grammatical difference in "justly" and "justice," we concluded "do justly" means to "walk out justice." However, we still wanted to study "justice" more, so I asked the one who brought forth the question to study it out and let us know what she found. As we prepare to study Proverbs, we decided to finally close the loop and have her share with us what she found when answering the question, "*How do you **DO** justice?*"
- **Her Conclusion.** She opened with her conclusion "to DO JUSTICE in the world is to DO JUSTICE to the Word." Then, she walked us through the complete progression of how she reached her conclusion. **First**, she shared the definitions she used to define "justice." **Next**, she walked us through each of the verses she looked at during her study, sharing the context, the study notes from her Bible, and her personal notes. **Finally**, she re-shared her conclusion, which we now better understood! The document containing her progressive journey is posted on the website: <http://www.wow2women.com/documents.html>. However, for convenience, I have attached the shortened version of that same document depicting the definitions, verses the study is based on, and her conclusion.

¹ For further information, Meeting Notes from these meetings can be found on our website: <http://www.wow2women.com/meeting-notes.html>.

- **Tidbits from our Discussion.** Some of the things I jotted down:
 - When it comes to justice, God has his role, and we have ours. We have to learn how to stay out of God's lane.
 - When we go against God's Word, we deflect justice and repel righteousness.
 - Justice and righteousness are not just a state of being, but they are things to be done.
 - Repenting, establishing unfailing loyalty to God and His Word, and depending (waiting) on the Lord are how we do justice and live righteously.
 - Chattering back at God is how strongholds are created!
 - There was a continual theme of mercy and truth when it comes to our role in doing justice.
 - When we try to render our own justice, we end up judging others!
 - When we have on the whole armor of God, because there is truth in our heart, we are more apt to give mercy. Likewise, when we're not worried about others hurting or offending us, it's easier to extend mercy.
- **Answering One of her Questions.** When examining Psalm 82:3, she asked, "When He says fatherless, does it mean those without Him? Or those without actual fathers...?" Since the father had such a key role in providing for and keeping his family safe, fatherless most likely refers to those without a physical father.
- **Overall takeaway.** In order for us to do justice, we have to extend mercy towards others and have an unfailing loyalty to the truth presented in God's Word.

Wrapping up the evening. After we completed our takeaways, we prayed over one of our leaders; she is leaving our small group family to follow the call of God on her life. We then prayed in a new leader.

Closing: We closed our meeting in prayer with a time of need-specific prayer for the challenges that were lifted up, for the group overall, and as the Holy Spirit led.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, or would like to be added to or removed from the email distribution for the meeting notes, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our site, www.wow2women.com.



ATTACHMENT: Study Notes – Doing Justice

DOING JUSTICE

Definitions

1. Just behavior or treatment
2. The quality of being fair or reasonable
3. The administration of the law or authority in maintaining this
4. A supreme judge
5. **JUSTICE** - jus'-tis (tsedhaqah; tshedheq; dikaiosune): The original Hebrew and Greek words are the same as those rendered "righteousness." This is the common rendering, and in about half the cases where we have "just" and "justice" in the King James Version, the American Standard Revised Version has changed to "righteous" and "righteousness." It must be constantly borne in mind that the two ideas are essentially the same. (Retrieved from <http://classic.net.bible.org/dictionary.php?word=JUSTICE>)

Verses this study is based on:

1. Deuteronomy 32:4
2. Job 8:3
3. Psalm 37:6
4. Psalm 72:2
5. Psalm 72:4
6. Psalm 82:3
7. Psalm 89:14
8. Proverb: 16:8
9. Proverb 28:5
10. Isaiah 28:17
11. Isaiah 30: 18
12. Isaiah 42:1
13. Isaiah 59:4
14. Psalm 59:14
15. Isaiah 61: 8
16. Jeremiah 31:23
17. Ezekiel 45:9
18. Daniel 4:37

19. Hosea 12:6
20. Zechariah 7:9
21. Malachi 2:17
22. Acts 8:31

Ultimately, I have arrived at this conclusion. To DO JUSTICE in the world is to DO JUSTICE to The Word. The justice of judgment is not our lane. It's His. The justice of judgment requires perfection and we know all of His ways are justice. The best we can hope to do is to live a life with as close to unfailing loyalty to His Word as we can. Our eye to justice should be pointed toward Him rather than others. The trap that I can see before me is believing justice is something I have a right to dole out to those around me as I believe is right. I can even see when there are times I may find a scripture to uphold my lust for revenge masquerading as justice. But the truth is The Word is a weapon to be wielded at the enemy, not our brothers and sisters. If I define Doing Justice in the world as doing justice to The Word, then my eyes are fixed on Him. I necessarily spend less time looking inward noticing offense, exuding darkness, and absorbing the light around me without giving much – if any – back and more time looking upward recognizing His Righteousness and Justice exuding mercy and truth to His exaltation.