

Jonah, Jesus and Jihad: Part 3

Pursuing Peace: Jonah 3, Romans 12:14-13:7

Jonah is rooting for justice, God is offering mercy. Do you want justice more than you want grace to come through peace?

How can we pursue peace by going beyond justice?

Romans 12:9-21 (See also Matthew 5:38-48, Luke 6:27-36):

Our Job:

God's Job:

Yeah but...

There are 2 major objection to non-violence:

1. Assumption #1:

2. Assumption #2:

Jesus calls us to be pursue peace by going beyond justice. That means we are:

- A) _____
- B) _____
- C) _____

Life Group Questions

This week, before you go to your Life Group:

Review Sunday's teaching. Write down all of your observations, questions and comments. Read and study the following passage: Romans 12:14-3:7.

Life Group Discussion Questions:

How do you respond to the nonviolent teaching of Jesus? What are some of the practical difficulties that you find with living out Jesus' teaching that we've looked at in the last few weeks (love your enemy, pray for those who persecute you)?

Read Romans 12:14-21. Make a list of as many of the positive instructions given to followers of Jesus. Make a list of the things that Christians are told *not* to do. Read Romans 13:1-7. Make a list of what we learn about earthly authorities. What do we learn about the governing authorities? What do we learn about how God uses governing authorities? Compare your list from Romans 12 with the one from 13. Talk about what the implications are for what the church does and what 'the State' does.

Read Matthew 5:38-42. Jesus quotes the Old Testament way of justice/retaliation: an eye for an eye. Examine the examples that Jesus uses to go beyond that kind of justice. How are Jesus' instructions different? Do you think that any of these actions would 'work' to diffuse the situation without escalating it to violence?

Jesus is creative as he thinks of ways to address violent or oppressive tactics. As a group, can you think of ways that Christians could creatively address issues of intolerance, poverty, violence and injustice in peaceful ways? Think of ways that we can do this locally and globally.

Pray for those who are suffering around the world because of violent oppression and injustice. Pray also for those who are engaging in violent acts against others. Pray that God's grace would transform them. Ask God how we can be part of bringing His kingdom to this world through radical compassion that goes beyond justice.