

And Justice for All

The Justice Series – Part 6

Scripture text – various

Introduction

- In finishing the series, we zero-in on how we as Christians can participate in the national discussion about _____ .

The Micro Level

- God instructed the Israelites who were deported to Babylon to seek the _____ and _____ of the Babylonian people.
- Too many Christians today appear spoiling for a _____. We often come across as _____, _____ and conspiratorial.
- 5 micro-level propositions:
 1. Be educated about & acknowledge our country's racist _____, both individual & institutional.
 2. Appreciate the _____ of the issue.
 3. Reach out to “marginalized people” and listen to their _____.
 4. Be political, but not _____.
 5. Get control of your _____.

The Macro Level

- The rest of the story: After 70 years in Babylon, the Israelites were allowed to return to their _____.
- Shockingly, King Darius I ordered the _____ of his own people in order to assist the Israelites in re-establishing themselves as a freed people.
- This appears to be a clear, biblical refutation of the 2 primary objections to the notion of *our* country paying reparations (in some form) to the descendants of slaves.
 1. No one alive today ever _____ slaves
 2. No one alive today ever was a _____

Possible Points of Agreement

1. Reparations (or “restitution”) is a _____ concept.
 - President Lincoln had a plan to pay reparations, but his successor _____ the plan
 - Meanwhile, approximately _____ million acres were parceled out to white Americans

2. The unjust & injurious treatment of black Americans _____ long after the end of the Civil War, with much of it institutional and _____ - sanctioned.
 - All of it created a deep _____ that has never healed or been atoned for.
 - Reparations provide an opportunity for _____.

Series Conclusion

(Micah 6:8) *He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act _____ and to love _____ and to walk _____ with your God.*