

THE SPIRITUALITY OF JUSTICE – REFUGEES

SUNDAY CIRCLE 2/15/26

How do we – as people trying to understand God – understand what is “justice”?

Thoughts of Dr. Timothy Keller, from the fourth in a 2020 series of articles about justice and race:

“Only biblical justice is comprehensive enough to address the needs of the human condition... Biblical justice is not first of all a set of bullet points or a set of rules and guidelines. It is rooted in the very character of God and it is the outworking of that character, which is never less than just... Biblical justice is characterized by: radical generosity, universal equality, life-changing advocacy, and asymmetrical responsibility.”

So, what does this have to do with refugees?

Let's start with the Oxford Languages definition of “refugee”:

“a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster”

How do Dr. Keller's characteristics of Biblical justice come into play when we are thinking about, speaking about, helping refugees?

1. Radical generosity
2. Universal equality
3. Life-changing advocacy
4. Asymmetrical responsibility

How have we experienced these in the work of the Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry?

Working with refugees is often impossibly hard, heart-breakingly sad, immensely frustrating – how is it then that we can actually do this work?

Spoiler alert – By the power of love. Love for our neighbor. Love for the stranger. Because in the end we are nothing ourselves without God's love for us, which we are then to give out into the world. Radically and universally. Without thought of return.

Love like this will change your life. Guaranteed. Happy Valentine's Day.