

JC GUIDE. 9 May 2010

Welcome: Andrew Baughen (Vicar)

Songs: *Praise to the Lord; Psalm 62; I will bless the Lord forever*

Introducing the theme: Social justice

This is JC at this point children go to their activities (see overleaf for details)

Bible Reading: Isaiah 58 read by Diana Faber. *Page 744 of the Bibles*

Talk: Isaiah 58: 'Loose the chains of injustice.'

Speaker: Andrew Baughen

Reflection solo: *God of Justice*

Songs: *Living for your glory; Hear the call of the Kingdom*

Prayers: Praying for the leaders of our nation

Final hymn: *In Christ Alone*

Closing prayer and announcements

Please stay for refreshments served in the church.

Events coming up

Evening Service tonight 6pm

An informal service with prayer, readings, a Bible talk and time for questions.
This week's topic: God's roadmap to peace (Ephesians 2)

introducingGod

Presenting the game changing teaching
of Jesus Christ in a single evening.

iGod is an overview of the Christian message through short talks,
special guest interviews, multimedia and a question time.
Designed for busy people who have lots of questions about God.

May 26, 7.30-9pm with food served from 7pm
The Crypt at St James Church, Clerkenwell Close, London EC1R 0EA
www.jc-church.org 020 7251 1190

More Information

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NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Isaiah 58: 'Loose the chains of injustice.'

1. Our resistance to compassion

2. God's mission of compassion

- set people free from oppression v6
- feed the hungry v7
- provide shelter and include the foreigner v7

3. God's generosity diet

- fasting

- feasting

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

Tim Keller paraphrases God's words in v1-5 like this: "If you don't love the poor and hungry, then no matter what you say you don't love me – you don't have a relationship with me. It's a formal relationship filled with compliance and ordinances but you don't really have a relationship with me. The way you treat the poor tells me the reality of how you regard me." Discuss

Why are freedom from oppression, food to eat and a home to live in central to God's mission? (Is 58:6-7; 61:1, 4-7) Can you think of examples in other parts of God's Bible story where these purposes are central to God?

Why does God suggest that showing compassion to others is the fasting that will transform us?

The benefit of spending ourselves satisfying the needs of others in compassion is that we are then satisfied with riches from God. What are these riches?

Discuss the practical steps which will help you take up God's generosity diet.

Verses 13-14 turn to keeping the Sabbath. Why is calling the Sabbath a delight another way of reversing the problem of v2-4 where God seems distant? What are the implications for you?

"The church (must begin) to form itself... into an outcropping of counter cultural spirituality... It must give up self-cultivation for surrender; entertainment for worship; intuition for truth; slick marketing for authentic witness; success for faithfulness; power for humility; a God bought on cheap terms for a God who calls us to costly obedience. It must in short be willing to do God's business on God's terms." (David Wells, *God in the Wasteland*.) Discuss.

RESPONSE.

Please use this space for your comments and questions then pop this detachable form into the collection. Please see overleaf to request a welcome pack etc.