

“When the Saints”

by Sara Groves

Lord I have a heavy burden of all I've seen and know
It's more than I can handle
But your word is burning like a fire shut up in my bones
And I cannot let it go

And when I'm weary and overwrought
With so many battles left unfought
I think of Paul and Silas in the prison yard
I hear their song of freedom rising to the stars
And when the Saints go marching in - I want to be one of them

Lord it's all that I can't carry and cannot leave behind
It often overwhelms me
But when I think of all who've gone before and lived the faithful life,
their courage compels me

And when I'm weary and overwrought
With so many battles left unfought
I think of Paul and Silas in the prison yard
I hear their song of freedom rising to the stars
I see the shepherd Moses in the Pharaohs court
I hear his call for freedom for the people of the Lord
And when the Saints go marching in - I want to be one of them

I see the long quiet walk along the Underground Railroad
I see the slave awakening to the value of her soul
I see the young missionary and the angry spear
I see his family returning with no trace of fear
I see the long hard shadows of Calcutta nights
I see the sisters standing by the dying man's side
I see the young girl huddled on the brothel floor
I see the man with a passion come and kicking down the door
I see the man of sorrows and his long troubled road
I see the world on his shoulders and my easy load

And when the Saints go marching in
I want to be one of them

Missional Serving Community - Unit 2 -

Week 1: *PRAY* see learn serve

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Triune God,

You are just, you are kind, you are holy,
and still you want to walk with me.
How amazing it is that when I am lost,
or questioning, or wondering;
when I am unsure of the next step;
when I cannot find my way,
when voices are many and loud,
you invite me to slow down, to seek the good,
to center myself on your holy invitation:
“Do justice,” you tell me, “today.”
“Love kindness,” you advise, “right now.”
“Walk humbly with me,” you invite,
“and I will show you the way.

My will for your life is not hard to find: do justice, love
kindness, walk with me.”

Father God, turn my heart toward justice.

Brother Jesus, show me how to love kindness.

Holy Spirit, invited me to walk with you in humility,
now and forever. Amen.

Matthew 23:23 - "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others."

Isaiah 1:17 - "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

Isaiah 42:1-4 - "Here is my servant! I have made him strong. He is my chosen one; I am pleased with him. I have given him my Spirit, and he will bring justice to the nations. He won't shout or yell or call out in the streets. He won't break off a bent reed or put out a dying flame, but he will make sure that justice is done. He won't quit or give up until he brings justice everywhere on earth, and people in foreign nations long for his teaching."

Psalms 10:17-18 - "You listen to the longings of those who suffer. You offer them hope, and you pay attention to their cries for help. You defend orphans and everyone else in need, so that no one on earth can terrify others again."

Matthew 25:38-40 - "When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Isaiah 61 - The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10:

"Created To Do Good Work"

By Danielle Coke

"You were created to do good work. Work that empowers and inspires, liberates and transforms, restores and softens.

Yes, work can be hard – as it was meant to be. The verb itself calls us to action, rejecting passivity and demanding sustained effort. It provokes, agitates, and disturbs. But this work – the call for justice – is good work.

It defends the oppressed and frees the captive. It tears down walls and destroys barriers. It changes things.

So when you are feeling weary, or hopeless, or spent, remind yourself that the darkness is being flooded by marvelous light.

Yes, this is work. And it is good."

“Justice”

by The Bible Project

- What is “*tsedeka*”?
- What is “*mishpat*”?
- What is “*Rashah*”?

Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Jeremiah 22:3

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue
from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed.
Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the
widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

Psalms 146:7-9

He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free,
⁸ the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

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Week 2: pray **SEE** learn serve

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“Walk humbly with me,” you invite,
“and I will show you the way.
My will for your life is not hard to find: do justice, love
kindness, walk with me.”
Father God, turn my heart toward justice.
Brother Jesus, show me how to love kindness.
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Litany from
“Rally: Communal Prayers for Lovers of Jesus and Justice”
by Cory Driver

One: God, our Loving Parent and Creator of all, your children cry out to you.

All: Those who pass through the waters, those who struggle across the land - God be with them!

One: God, you carried the Israelites through the heart of the sea.

All: Lord, you escorted them across dry land with your fiery presence. God has been with us!

One: Remember when you led your people through the wilderness of Sinai.

All: Recall when you preserved Elijah as he fled through the desert. God, be present to save!

One: As Boaz received Ruth and Naomi and provided sustenance for them.

All: As Boaz welcomed the foreigner and recognized her as kin. God train us to love!

One: God, your Word reminds us continually: We were strangers in a foreign land.

All: Lord, help us to have radical empathy for those who are unwelcomed. God teach us to welcome!

One: Lord, you sent your Son who was not of the world

All: To rescue a dying creation and to teach us how to live. Christ, Hosanna, save us!

One: Jesus, the way, truth and life, help us to walk in your ways.

All: You told us when we love the stranger, we are, in fact, loving you. Lord, help us to love the stranger, our neighbor!

One: God, create in us a compulsion not to stand idly by.

All: Lord, stir us up to holy action lest the blood of our neighbor be shed. For the glory of your name and the love of our siblings in Christ. Amen!

Missional Serving Community

- Unit 2 -

Week 3: pray see **LEARN** serve

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Colossians 1:21-22 (NLV)

21 At one time you were strangers to God and your minds were at war with Him. Your thoughts and actions were wrong.

22 But Christ has brought you back to God by His death on the cross. In this way, Christ can bring you to God, holy and pure and without blame.

- Looking at vs. 21 - When/Why were you a stranger (the vulnerable)?
- Looking at vs. 22 - How did you become a guest (restored)?

Xenos

"Becoming a Just Church" by Adam Gustine

In the New Testament, the word *xenos* is used for both *stranger* and *guest*. They are interchangeable.

Stranger = Guest

- When we think of strangers, what comes to mind?
- When we think of guests what comes to mind?
- When we think of refugees, where do they fall? Closer to stranger or closer to guest?
 - WHY?