Micah — Judge

A child sits across from their parent. They've messed up—big time. They know the rules, and they know the consequences of breaking them. How can they make it right?

"What should I do?" The child asks.

The parent's response?

"To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

What are the ways in which we can make the world right again? Make the world as close to what it was at the beginning and what it could have been now?

What are the ways in which we can restore the broken relationships around us? Those that were broken out of selfishness or deceit?

Justice is how we see these things fixed. But how, or what kind?

the God who sent His Son to die for us—the ultimate act of restorative justice.

Most of us in the Western world associate punishment with the word or process of justice—the law being carried out and wrongs being righted. Yet, that is not what we see in the God who sent His Son to die for us—the ultimate act of restorative justice.

Yet, we are in a culture of high incarceration rates and death penalties. A world where we often see justice become a tool for vengeance.

Yes, we live in a world where there are, and should be, natural consequences to our actions. But restoring and righting wrongs should be what leads to those punishments or natural consequences. Not our need to see another suffer.

But it seems we're more comfortable picking up our swords than laying them down and reshaping them into tools that do the hard work of tilling the ground, or restoring the world to what it should be.

Sometimes, that is just so much easier.

We're more comfortable picking up our swords than laying them down and reshaping them…

I sit across from Jesus, or next to him, on a park bench. (For some reason, God feels so approachable when I imagine Jesus this way.) I've messed up—big time, again. I know what I did was wrong. I know my choices and my actions brought chaos to another, and even myself. I knew, deep down, that it probably would turn out this way. Can I even begin to make this right?

"What should I do?" I turn to Jesus and ask, barely able to make myself meet his warm eyes.

He reaches for his staff and replies, "Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly—**with me.**"

So I pick up the plow at my feet, ready to do the hard work of putting my relationships, my corner of the world, back together, and follow Him further down the trail.

Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly—with me.

PRAYER

O God,
What do you require of me?
Is it perfection and offerings?
Or is it much simpler than that?
I hear You and creation crying out
to live justly, love mercy, and walk humbly
with You.
I may fall, but I will rise.
I may be lost in darkness, but You will be my light.
May I walk in Your light, in Your hope,
Bringing others along with me
To worship You in shalom.

Amen

EPISODE 50 (SESSION 2)

THE FOUR PILLARS



BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the story of God's people.

Here are some applications for this episode echoing the ideas of the four pillars:

I

TEXT

What stands out to you from the Text that you want to carry with you as you read the prophets? What could you meditate over or memorize?

II

COMMUNITY

How does your community see justice? Where do you see restorative versus retributive justice in your communities? What does it look like for these to work together in a healthy way?

III

DISCIPLESHIP

Who are you bringing alongside you to model for and receive restorative justice? Who have you seen turn their swords to plows or even shepherds' staffs in your own life?

IV

WRESTLING

How might you still wrestle with these types of justice? What scriptures seem to wrestle with this idea? Or not? How do you see this in the person of Jesus?

Spotify

Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.

BEMA SESSION 2

MEDITATION & PRAYER

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases that we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

True success is developing intimacy with God. In Session 1, we encountered the idea of "Creating Space for God" in our lives. We believe that ***if we do our part of creating that space, God will fill it*** *as He desires. You're already doing this as you dive into the Text and jump into a place to discuss. God will meet you in these places! Look for places the Holy Spirit can do work in and through you as you go about your everyday life.*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS
YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

We believe that young adults are shaping the future of this world. *Jesus modeled a ministry of discipling young adults, and that approach has and will work. If you are a college student who is listening, we want this material to be directly helpful to your pursuits. If you are not a college student, we want to challenge you to come alongside one and work together.*

SACRED STATION
THEOLOGY OF WORK

This isn't only for church or Bible study; this is about what we do every day. How we do our job and how it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something God says is central to our presence in the world. Justice is very much something God cares about. Does our physical work (our 9–5 job) bring shalom or chaos? Does it exploit creation? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief to others. ***The work we do every day is sacred and matters!***

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