

# Making Wrongs Right

(Insights from Exodus 21:28-22:17)

Pastor Bob Johnson, Grace Point Church, April 9th, 2017

## Timeless Principles from Past Examples:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_ would not be heavenly.

(1 John 4:8, Isaiah 61:8, Isaiah 45:21)

2. Making a wrong right requires \_\_\_\_\_

(1 John 1:8-9, Judges 10:6-19)

3. When wronged, never seek \_\_\_\_\_

(Exodus 21:23-25, Romans 12:17-19, 1 Peter 2:21-24, Matthew 7:1-2, Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 3:12-13)

4. If done wrong, do your best to \_\_\_\_\_

(Romans 12:17-19, Proverbs 14:9)

5. Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_

(1 John 2:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 3:13)

## This Week's Discussion Guide:

**Welcome to the last week for our small groups this season! We started way back on the week of January 15th. Time flies when having fun :).** We will be taking a break for a few weeks and then starting back up the week of our Faith In Action Sunday on April 30th. Speaking of FIA Sunday, we are encouraging our groups to prayerfully choose one of our many service projects and join in serving together. See our website for a list of projects and how to sign up.

### Getting Started:

Proverbs 27:17 talks about sharpening each other as we rub shoulders together while leaning in God's direction. This past 'winter quarter', how has being part of our small sharpened you?

Small groups are where folks at GPC move from being 'believers' to 'belongers'. Has that been true for you? How has your small group helped you feel more connected and able to contribute to and through our church family?

Last Sunday, we looked at what God's Word has to say about restitution and retaliation. We heard last Sunday how revenge/retaliation is never the answer when we've been wronged. Have you ever been in a situation where you contemplated seeking revenge or retaliation? What happened? When is it appropriate to get legal representation and rely on 'civil/government support'?

Have you ever been in a situation where you borrowed something from a friend or neighbor and it broke while it was in your possession? How did you respond?

Looking back on the message from Exodus 21-22, what stands out to you? What helped you, surprised you or raised a question for you?

### Digging Deeper:

1. As we heard last Sunday that we are called as Christ followers to not seek revenge but instead to extend forgiveness and trust in God's timing and means to extend justice.

In Genesis 32 and 33, we see the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, brothers who had been estranged for years because Jacob had stolen Esau's inheritance and in response Esau made plans to kill his brother. Read Genesis 32:3-11 and 33:1-11. What principles of asking for forgiveness or pursuing reconciliation do you see in this story? What emotions do you think Jacob experienced in this process? What about Esau? Why do you think it is difficult to ask for forgiveness at times?

Asking for forgiveness also doesn't necessarily mean that the other person believes we are being sincere about our apology. In his book 'The Five Languages of Apology', author Gary Chapman suggests this miscommunication happens because people apologize in five different ways (he calls them languages). As you read his five ways below, circle the one(s) most important for you to hear from someone when they have wronged you.

- expressing regret                    "I'm sorry."
- accepting responsibility        "I'm wrong."
- making restitution                "What can I do to make it right?"
- genuinely repenting            "I will work on not doing that again."
- asking for forgiveness         "Will you please forgive me?"

Now, put a check next to the one(s) most challenging for you to say to someone when you messed up.

How might these 'languages of apology' help you own up to your stuff with God and/or with others?

2. The last couple of Sundays we have heard about the 613 laws the Israelites were given to help them live together peacefully. While the New Testament doesn't include a detailed moral code like the Old Testament, it does include general principles for living in the family of God. Which of the principles of healthy relationships in Ephesians 4:25-32 stands out to you the most?

Can you think of anything that would help you live out these principles more consistently?

What would be the benefits to you and to those around you if you were to more frequently put these principles into practice?

3. On one occasion, Jesus had dinner with a Jewish man who held a local political position that provided him lots of opportunities to cheat his fellow people. Because of his position, he was both rich and despised. How do you see the man's response to Jesus in Luke 19:2-10 illustrating the main points from the sermon last Sunday?

### WRAPPING UP ...

Looking back on this week's message, what is most important for you to remember?

Can you think of any past wrongs someone has committed against you or injustices that continue to trip you up or drag you down? If so, how does the message from Exodus 21-22 speak to that situation?

Can you think of any wrongs or injustices that you have done to someone else that you need to address with them?

For our last small group time for a few weeks, what prayer requests can we share so we can pray for each other before we close?

As part of your prayer time, please pray for our upcoming Easter weekend! Pray for God to move in mighty ways as we gather together on Friday night, our Egg Hunts on Saturday for our young families, and for our annual Easter outdoor celebrations next Sunday.