THE GOOD LIFE

**6––RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE**

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

**Psalm 103:1–8 (NKJV)** Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name! **2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: **3** Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, **4** Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, **5** Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. **6** **The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed**. **7** He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. **8** The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

1. Forgives all your iniquities
2. Heals all your diseases
3. Redeems your life from destruction
4. Crowns you with lovingkindness (hesed) and tender mercies
5. Satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s

**TODAY… Verse 6** – “The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.”

**Righteousness** = (Webster’s) “Acting in accord with [divine](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/divine#h1) or [moral](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/moral#h1) law.” In other words, doing what the established law says.

**Justice** = (Webster’s) “the maintenance or administration of what is just.” In other words, making right things that were not handled or judged correctly according to the established law.

**SO, LET ME PUT VERSE 6 IN MY OWN WORDS**

*“Two other benefits of serving the Lord are: He always treats each person the right way, exactly as He promised. And when anyone mistreat someone, if they call out to Him, He will not only make a judgment from heaven, He will make things right and sentence those who violated righteousness.”*

**Psalm 22:28 (NKJV)** For the kingdomis the Lord’s, And He rules over the nations.

**Psalm 37:28 (NKJV)** For the Lord loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.

**Romans 12:19 (NKJV)** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

**Proverbs 11:31 (NKJV)** If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner.

**SO HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**Exodus 22:22–24 (NKJV)** “You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. **23** If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; **24** and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”

**SO LET’S WATCH HOW GOD DID THIS WITH ISRAEL**

**GOD MADE A COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

**Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)** Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. **2** I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

**MANY YEARS LATER PHARAOH BEGAN MISTREATING ABRAHAM’S DESCENDENTS**

**Exodus 1:8–11 (NIV)** Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. **9** “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. **10** Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.” **11** So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh.

**GOD’S COVENANT PEOPLE CRIED OUT TO HIM**

**Exodus 2:23–24 (NKJV)** Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and **they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage**. **24** So God **heard** their groaning, and **God remembered His covenant** with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

**Joshua 24:5 (NLT)** “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I brought terrible plagues on Egypt; and afterward I brought you out as a free people.”

**Psalm 105:42–43 (NKJV)** For He remembered His holy promise, And Abraham His servant. **43** He brought out His people with joy, His chosen ones with gladness.

**Psalm 105:37 (NKJV)** He also brought them out with silver and gold, And there was none feeble among His tribes.

**AMERICA HAS THREE BRANCHES**

1. **Judicial Branch Interprets laws with judgment**
2. **Legislative Branch makes the laws**
3. **Executive Branch enforces the laws**

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS ALL THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

**Isaiah 33:22 (ESV)** For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.

**AND WE HAVE EVEN BETTER PROMISES THAN THEY HAD**

**Hebrews 8:6 (NLT)** But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

**AND GOD PROPHESIED THAT JESUS WOULD EXECUTE JUSTICE**

**Isaiah 42:1–4 (NKJV)** “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. **2** He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. **3** A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. **4** He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”

**JESUS HIMSELF SAID IT WAS PART OF WHAT HE WAS ANOINTED TO DO**

**Luke 4:18–19** “**The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor**; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, **To set at liberty those who are oppressed**; **19** To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

**SO IF YOU HAVE BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF … AND NEED JUSTICE, WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?**

**Luke 18:1–8 (NKJV)** Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart, **2** saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. **3** Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, ‘Get justice for me from my adversary.’ **4** And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, ‘Though I do not fear God nor regard man, **5** yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.’ ” **6** Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust judge said. **7** And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? **8** I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

**YOU NEED TO APPEAL TO THE HIGH COURT OF HEAVEN … TO THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE**