

Justice and Jesus the Prophet

The stories of Jesus' life and teachings recorded in the Book of Luke highlight recurring themes of economic justice and Jesus as a prophet in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets. Together, let's explore how Jesus' teachings about justice continue God's emphasis on justice in the Old Testament. Let's discuss what Luke still teaches us today about how and when we should care for justice as Christians.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How do you define justice?
- What is a prophet?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Justice and Jesus the Prophet](#)

READ [Luke 1:46-55](#), [Luke 6:20-26](#), [Luke 16:19-31](#), [Luke 9:28-31](#), [Luke 4:16-30](#), [Luke 24:13-49](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is it helpful to recognize this foundation of justice in the Old Testament? Why is consistency between the Old Testament and New Testament important for our understanding of our calling to justice?
- After reading Luke's record of Jesus' blessings and woes in [Luke 6:20-26](#), host Darrell Delaney clarified that Jesus' warnings don't mean people should never have money or power, but rather, at its heart, they are about *where* "you derive your identity, your purpose, and your calling from." Think about what you say and do in daily life. Do your words and actions reflect Christ as the source of your identity, purpose, and calling, or do they reflect another source?
- Reflecting on Jesus' parable about Lazarus and the rich man in [Luke 16:19-31](#), host Scott Hoezee said, "It is all there for the reading. Just read it and then live that way...and that is what Jesus in Luke is saying: Live that way; live justly." Why do you think we find this so challenging to obey?
- Studying Luke's account of Jesus' Transfiguration in [Luke 9:28-31](#), Scott and Darrell noted that Jesus carries on the tradition of the Old Testament prophets to call for justice. They also remarked that this event signified how Jesus fulfilled all the law (represented by Moses) and the prophets (represented by Elijah). How do these truths impact how we follow Jesus today?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Leviticus 19:9-10, 33-34](#), [Deuteronomy 10:17-19](#), [Deuteronomy 24:19-22](#), [Amos 2:7](#), [Micah 3:1-3](#), [Amos 5:24](#), [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#), [Matthew 5:1-12](#), [Deuteronomy 18:14-22](#), [1 Kings 17:7-24](#), [2 Corinthians 1:18-20](#), [Micah 6:8](#)

CONCLUSION

As they closed the episode, Scott and Darrell identified two important takeaways from this study of the major themes in the book of Luke:

1. Believers need to know the Old Testament because Jesus Christ fulfills everything recorded there.
2. The New Testament emphasizes the importance of justice, just as the Old Testament does. We must live lives that reflect God's justice.

Reread [Micah 6:8](#). What does this look like in your life? Just as Jesus gave Lazarus a name, to whom can you give dignity by seeing them as a real person—with a real name and real stories—that needs to be known and cared for?

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