

April 7, 2019

Acts 19:1a,8-10; Matthew 18:21-35

The Ministry of Jesus Continues
“Grace Ain’t Fair”
or
“Living In An Unjust World”

INTRODUCTION

1. GRACE AIN’T FAIR
2. MAKE GRACE JUDGMENTS
3. AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU

For discussion in small groups and personal reflection:

1. What is it that makes you the most angry? Do you find that it often has to do with your sense of “fair” being violated?
2. Read again the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant in Matthew 18:21-35. What is it that God expects us to see that will determine how we respond to others when we’re owed something, even owed fair treatment, but it’s not given?
3. See Matthew 18:35. Jesus uses some pretty harsh language. Why would He give us this kind of “ultimatum?”
4. How does responding with grace and mercy communicate the gospel?
5. Read again Matthew 5:38-45. Can you think of an example of an “extra-mile” or “turn the cheek” kind of response to a difficult situation that you have seen or experienced? What was it like? What happened?
6. How is it that grace and our idea of fair are not connected?
7. Read Leviticus 19:10, 23;22, 25:35. Often our response to the poor is graceless. We hear things like, “They’re irresponsible, they don’t deserve help.” How does God’s attitude toward the poor measure up to ours?
8. When is it right to insist on fair treatment and justice?