

JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER

WEEK TWO

THE JOY OF UNREMEMBERED SINS

MARCH 14 2021

EZEKIEL 18:5-24
PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. THE TRAPPINGS OF BLAME-SHIFTING (EZEKIEL 18:2)

- A. Blame-shifting is an ancient way we tend to respond to our guilt (Genesis 33:8-13)
- B. Blame-shifting allows us to avoid taking responsibility and enables us to develop a victim mentality
- C. Blame-shifting is an upside-down gospel that cannot heal or save

II. A CASE STUDY OF GOD'S JUSTICE AND HUMAN SIN (EZEKIEL 18:5-20)

- A. A case of three generations and God's judgment
 - 1. A righteous man who surely lives (v.5-9)
 - 2. His unrighteous son who shall surely die (v. 10-13)
 - 3. A righteous grandson who surely lives (v. 14-18)
- B. What generation represents the Exiles? (v.19-20)
 - 1. The people are surprised by Ezekiel's scenario that generation one does not suffer because of generation two (v.19)
 - 2. Our justice and righteousness indicate our allegiance. God loves righteousness and justice (Psalm 33:5; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Psalm 89:14)
 - 3. Truth reiterated. We should take care to evaluate our lives and take responsibility for our choices (v. 21)

III. THE JOY OF UNREMEMBERED SIN (EZEKIEL 18:21-24)

- A. Repentance leads to life (v. 21-22)
 - 1. Repentance is heartfelt sorrow for sin that turns from disobedience and turns toward obedience by faith (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:20-21; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - 2. Those who repent will not perish (Luke 13:3)
- B. God delights in repentance and takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (v.22-23; Luke 15:7; Acts 3:19-20)
- C. Our life ought to be characterized by ongoing repentance (v. 24; Hebrews 10:11-18)

EZEKIEL 18:5-9

"If a man is righteous and does what is just and right— 6 if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbor's wife or approach a woman in her time of menstrual impurity, 7 does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, 8 does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice, executes true justice between man and man, 9 walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully—he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord God.

EZEKIEL 18:21-24

"But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 22 None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. 23 Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live? 24 But when a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice and does the same abominations that the wicked person does, shall he live? None of the righteous deeds that he has done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which he is guilty and the sin he has committed, for them he shall die.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What is blame-shifting? When was a time you were guilty of blame-shifting? What were your reasons for doing it?
2. How does blame-shifting end up enslaving us? Why doesn't it do what we think it will?
3. What does it mean to do justice and righteousness? What is a life that is just and right evidence of? What leads to life, and what leads to death?
4. What does God prescribe for these who recognize their sin? What does this tell us about who God is?
5. Why should our lives be characterized by ongoing repentance? How does ongoing repentance signify our spiritual growth?