

Let Justice Roll Down

Justice and Our Community: Isaiah 45:13

Discussion Points

October 22, 2017

Read & Reflect

1. Read Isaiah 44:24-45:13. God's people are in exile in Babylon, but Isaiah is foretelling the time when they will be released.
2. What's so startling to the people of God about including Cyrus and his actions in God's plans? What is Cyrus called in 44:27? How is that similar to, for example, King David, or even Jesus?
3. If you heard the prophecy of Isaiah about being released by an up and coming world ruler, would you have responded with belief or cynicism? Anticipating objection, how does God respond (45:11-13)?

Explore

4. Is God still busy with redeeming the world, or is that work completed? What are the implications about answering either yes or no to this question?
5. In what ways could Cyrus be seen as a Christ-figure? Similarly, in what ways could you act like Christ?
6. Some people prefer to serve by providing immediate help (e.g. hand out sandwiches to homeless). Some people prefer to serve by trying to understand and correct structures in society to address problems (e.g. why is there homelessness? and what can be done to alleviate the problem?). Some people prefer to serve by teaching and inspiring people towards right attitudes (e.g. developing values of compassion towards homeless people).
Where would you place yourself if those three options were on a spectrum?
7. What kinds of issues are you aware of in your community that require "doing justice?"

Pray:

- Pray for eyes and ears that are sensitive to injustices – especially when they are within our own community.
- Pray for some of the issues that you raised in question 7. Ask God to guide you into ways you can be a servant for redemption, like Cyrus.
- Pray that you yourself, and agencies throughout Abbotsford (like Cyrus Centre) have wisdom and compassion in addressing injustices, inequities, and social problems.