

Life Group Notes

Sunday 25th July 2023

Speaker: Jo Kay

Title: Jeremiah: Local Mission Sunday

Passage: Jeremiah 22:15-16

1. On Local Mission Sunday, we looked at Jeremiah 22:15-16 and noticed how the themes of justice and care for the poor run right through scripture. Let's start by reading the passage together:

But a beautiful cedar palace does not make a great king!

Your father, Josiah, also had plenty to eat and drink.

But he was just and right in all his dealings.

That is why God blessed him.

He gave justice and help to the poor and needy,

and everything went well for him.

Isn't that what it means to know me?"

says the Lord. (NLT)

Jeremiah the prophet challenges the idea that wealth and possessions equate to greatness and speaks as with the voice of God to ask: 'Isn't that (justice and help to the poor and needy) what it means to know me?'

- a. Do these ideas surprise you?
- b. Are 'justice and help to the poor' a key part of your discipleship (following Jesus) – if you'd like, share what you do & what are you learning about God through it?

2. Building God's kingdom is a key part of RFC's purpose:

'We are a growing Jesus-centred community, bringing God's kingdom to Reading and beyond.'

God's kingdom is where his will is done. Where his purposes prevail.... The one who 'gives justice to the poor and the orphan; upholds the rights of the oppressed and the destitute'. Ps 82:3 However, it's easy to forget the importance

God puts on caring for the poor when life is busy... let's not do that.

- a. We can share food, friendship and faith in everyday life (in the corporate world, your street, your family and friends) – how's that going? Maybe in your work, you can stand up for those whose voices aren't heard? Perhaps in your street, there are struggling families you can eat with? Neighbours you can invite to Alpha? Discuss how your Life Group can spur each other on in this.
- b. Have you joined one of the RFC teams: Chapter2, CAP, Rainbows, Alpha, Local Outreach, Craft Café, the new Food Pantry or a charity that we support eg) Starting Point, Torch etc.? If not, is there a way you'd like to contribute? Volunteering, befriending, inviting a friend or cooking for Alpha, prayer, donating food to the pantry, etc. There is something for everyone. Please encourage one another with your experiences and 'spur each other on to love and good deeds'. Working together as a body, we can make a significant difference!

3. Finally, please give some time to praying for each other and the challenging situations we face in Local Mission – this is all God's work, so we need his strength, direction, wisdom and power!

Any questions or to find out more, please contact Jo.kay@readingfamilychurch.org.uk