



## **“The Good Life | How to Do the Right Thing”**

September 18

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you think we all want to act justly as much as we crave wisdom? Why or why not?
2. Read Isaiah 58:1-12. What seems to upset God most in this passage? What does this tell us about God's character?
3. What do you think are ineffective motivations to “do the right thing?” Why do we need to embrace self denial to be able to act justly?
4. How does experiencing the undeserved gift of God's grace in our lives fuel us to “do the right thing”?
5. Is there a particular area of your life, or in the life of our city, where you are being called to “do the right thing” and live in right relationship with others? Share and then pray.

## Isaiah 58:1-12

True Fasting

58 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion  
and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

2 For day after day they seek me out;  
they seem eager to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that does what is right  
and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions  
and seem eager for God to come near them.

3 'Why have we fasted,' they say,  
'and you have not seen it?  
Why have we humbled ourselves,  
and you have not noticed?'

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please  
and exploit all your workers.

4 Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,  
and in striking each other with wicked fists.  
You cannot fast as you do today  
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,  
only a day for people to humble themselves?  
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed  
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?  
Is that what you call a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:  
to loose the chains of injustice  
and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free  
and break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry  
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—  
when you see the naked, to clothe them,  
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn,

and your healing will quickly appear;  
then your righteousness[a] will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.  
9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression,  
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,  
10 and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,  
then your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you always;  
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land  
and will strengthen your frame.

You will be like a well-watered garden,  
like a spring whose waters never fail.

12 Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and will raise up the age-old foundations;  
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,  
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.