

**092621 Growth Group Study**  
**Doing Justice, the Gateway to JOY**

**Isaiah 58:1-14**



**Background:**

This Sunday is Freedom Sunday where we are joining with over 1500 churches around the world to deepen our understanding for God’s heart for justice and renew our commitment to fight modern day slavery around the world. In our text, Isaiah exposes the hypocrisy that so often plagues the people of God that prevents us from experiencing his presence and then he entices us with the indescribable joy that opens up to us when we enter into God’s work of justice. It’s not as difficult as you might think!

**Sermon Text (ESV):**

**Isaiah 58:1-14**

*58 “Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins.*

*2 Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God.*

*3 ‘Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers.*

*4 Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.*

*5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord?*

*6 "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"*

*7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*

*8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*

*9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,*

*10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.*

*11 And the Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*

*12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.*

*13 "If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly;*

*14 then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."*

## Discussion Questions:

- Preparation
  - As you reflect on the sermon, what stands out to you most?
  - What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- Sermon Questions
  - Brian suggested that two of the easiest on ramps to learn more about justice are to 1) listen to the story of someone who has experienced injustice, and 2) pray the Psalms.
    - If you have tried either of these, what has been your experience?
    - If not, which one are you most interested in trying?
  - In verses 4-7, Isaiah discusses fasting – how we treat it vs. what the Lord desires. How does this passage teach and/or convict you about another perspective regarding the Lord’s desire for fasting?
  - Verse 9 describes a barrier to all spiritual growth & breakthroughs – when we will never admit guilt or wrong. Take several minutes with your group in silence to pray & search your heart for areas of hardness to bring in repentance before the Lord. (Share corporately if desired).
  - In verses 13-14, Isaiah paints a wonderful, exciting picture of the Sabbath done God’s way... Brian paraphrased it as, “Why satisfy your soul with video games (or TV or...) when you can go skydiving with God?”
    - What most excites you about this description of the Sabbath and its purpose for our lives?