

Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline

August 7 2016 (Thong Ng)

For the Life of the World - Economy of Order

Introduction

Why is there so much pain, insane violence and killing, terrorism and inhumanity?

Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities opens with, “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness...*”

John 3:16, ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.....*

He has saved us, filled us with His spirit to live as His agents “for the life of this world”

The Story of the Garden - a beautiful well planned and ordered garden - each plant placed there because of sun, soil, water requirements. They flourish

- Assume that the plants are animated and have power over each other
- Assume now there is a gigantic storm
- The gardener steps in. God makes things grow 1 Corinthians 3:7

Order and Justice

Order is most simply defined as the way God has set things up for them to flourish in harmony

Justice is to restore order - to bring back God's original design for things.

Justice can be done in two ways –

- *Outward law*

- *Inward grace*

Our default setting when there is chaos and confusion is fear and the emotional call for the **use of the law to restore order.**

Law excludes

Love and grace includes

Hospitality- For Order and Justice we need Hospitality

Hospitality is opening the door to the strangers.

Genesis 18:1-8

As a nomad Abraham knew the importance of hospitality.

Key is respect and honour - water for feet washing and food for hungry stomachs. Three things from this passage:

1. God visited Abraham but Abraham didn't know it was God - he only knew three men visited.
2. Abraham is aware of the common beliefs that a wandering stranger could be God or a servant of God.
3. Unconditional hospitality - no questions/background asked.

God's face of Justice is Hospitality - it's all about unconditional welcome to the stranger - giving them respect and honour when they are most vulnerable.

Matthew 25:31-40

Three things to observe from this passage:

1. One group - the grace givers showed spontaneous hospitality.
2. The other group - the law keepers didn't hear the cry of the human need.
3. *If only we knew* we would have stopped - conditional hospitality

John Perkins says, “Justice and hospitality are inseparable”.

We can't all understand justice but we all know what hospitality is. We can all practice hospitality.

The key is what do you see?

If only we knew it was you...

- You affirm the Christ in them
- You serve Christ by serving them
- You honour and respect Christ by honouring and respecting them

Application

For us all - offer hospitality - *Flavours from Home and Flavours from my Kitchen* flyers are available at the Help Desk.

Story of 'Ubuntu'.

For the strangers – find your FIT by adding value.

Parable of the new daughter in law