

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE STREAM: THE COMPASSIONATE LIFE

“The Social Justice Stream of Christian life and faith focuses upon justice and shalom in all human relationships and social structure.”

(Streams workbook, Session 8)

Jesus and the Social Justice Stream

The text that Jesus quotes in the synagogue is from Isaiah and is “rooted in the prophetic vision of the Hebrew Year of Jubilee. In his message and person Jesus was, in effect, announcing a perpetual Jubilee in the Spirit. The social ramifications of this were profound indeed: the land was to be healed, debts were to be forgiven, those in bondage were to be set free, capital was to be redistributed....Jesus fully intends that this ‘kingdom of heaven’ will constantly confront and pull down the kingdoms of this world. His is an alternate social vision – a vision of an all-inclusive people, gathered in the power of God, filled with the love of God, and empowered to do the works of God.”

(*Streams of Living Water* by Richard Foster, p. 12)



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim
release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favor.

– Luke 4:18-19

TAKING IT WITH YOU

1. Memorize Luke 4:18-19. Ask God to teach you how to follow Jesus' example today.
2. "Call to mind some of your 'neighbors' (anyone near to you) who may be victimized by injustice. What is one concrete way you can become involved in the situation as a source of compassion?"
(Streams workbook, Session 8)
4. Awareness of social injustices can be a step toward positive change. Commit to taking one step toward educating yourself. For example, read *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander.
5. According to Dallas Willard, "the best way to become involved in social righteousness is not to focus on some external loving action, but to become the type of person who naturally does the right thing."
(Streams workbook, Session 8)
Use video meditations to help you spend time with and be transformed by God: dallaswillardcenter.com/video-meditations.

