

Oct 15 0 Small Group - Deuteronomy 15; Acts 4 – No Poor in our Midst

1. N.T. Wright wrote “you become what you worship”. In what ways is this true? How does this speak to the import of our worship as a community?.

Read Deuteronomy 15:1-5; 7-11

2. One Old Testament Scholar spoke of biblical justice as “having the conditions present where everyone is able to flourish”. Deuteronomy 15 outlines one of those conditions. Do you sense that the systems, structures, and laws of our nation, our city undergird the flourishing of all? What should the response of the Jesus follower be in this regard? Why?

3. The systems, structures and laws that undergird flourishing are only effective to the degree that the hearts of those who administer them are similarly motivated toward that flourishing. What is needed from the human heart in light of this text?

Read Acts 4:29-37

This first community of followers of Jesus is marked by the distinctive feature that there are no poor in their midst. They are the fulfillment of the hope of Deuteronomy 15.

4. What were the distinctive features of this community?

5. What brought this transformation about?

In John 16 Jesus reflects on the reality that the Spirit’s work is to glorify Jesus. Glory means weight, significance, importance – their Spirit presses the truth of Jesus, the truth of the gospel down into our hearts such that Jesus becomes the most weighty, the most significant, the most weighty reality in our lives.

6. What truths of the gospel were pressed down into the hearts of this community

7. How can this be our reality as a church?