

Uprising Tables Doing Justice

*What does the Lord our God require
But to love mercy, do justice
And walk humbly with our God
Micah 6:8*

The Goal - Abundant Life

Pay close attention now: I'm creating a new heaven and a new earth. All the earlier troubles, chaos and pain are things of the past, to be forgotten. Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I am creating; I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight. I'll take joy in Jerusalem, take delight in my people. No more sounds of weeping in the city, no cries of anguish; No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don't enjoy a full lifetime. One hundredth birthdays will be considered normal – anything less will seem like a cheat. They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields and eat what they grow. No more building a house that some outsider takes over. No more planting fields that some enemy confiscates. For my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work. They won't work and have nothing come of it; they won't have children snatched out from under them. For they themselves are plantings blessed by God, with their children and grandchildren likewise God-blessed. Before they call out, I'll answer. Before they finish speaking, I'll have heard.

Isaiah 65:17-24 (The Message)

How do we find abundant life?

- Micah 6:8 is a strategy to reach abundant life
- Celebrating acts of mercy
- Going beyond mercy to include justice
- In Scripture, Justice and mercy kiss...if we follow mercy all the way, it takes us to justice



Following mercy to justice...

HOW DOES THE
WORLD
BREAK YOUR HEART?





The Girls



The Mothers



God's Broken Heart

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus

- Matthew 9:35-37: Com-*passion* – Seeing through Jesus' eyes...
- Not invisible any more...Luke 16
- Fully Visible -- Entertaining angels (Hebrews 13:2) and calling the outcasts (Mk. 2:17)
- Brothers and sisters in one Family (Ephesians 3:14-15) – familia justice
- Now you are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-26)
- Seeing the **crowd**
- ❖ How did Jesus respond? He gave it all
- ❖ Intelligent and effective love
- ❖ Not what are we required to give-- What do we have the capacity to give? – the heart of stewardship...

Responding to a World that Breaks our Hearts -- Tools for Change

- **Giving a Fish** – Direct Service -- doing “for”
- **Teaching people to Fish** – Individual Development
- **Fishing Together** -- Community Development (people doing it for themselves together – alternative systems)
- **Removing the Barrier around the Pond** – Organizing and Advocacy (engaging the systems that affect our lives)



Familia Justice



Leviticus 25

- You shall count off seven weeks^[a] of years, seven times seven years, so that the period of seven weeks of years gives forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall have the trumpet sounded loud; on the tenth day of the seventh month—on the day of atonement—you shall have the trumpet sounded throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, every one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family.

Isaiah 58

- Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs 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 them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

Luke 4:16-21

- ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
- ¹⁸ “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,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
- ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Acts 2:44-47

- All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[i] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[k] and ate their food with glad and generous^[l] hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

We are Family

- Dysfunctional family to healthy family
 - From activist to organizer
 - Wise as serpents and Innocent as Doves
 - The power of prayer and the art of encouragement
 - Moving our churches and our leaders to address the crises that break our hearts – the Guardian Angels (AMMPARO) and the Matthew 25 Movement

Guardian Angels/AMMPARO

A Mother's Story



All that we have to give...

- Program Director, Migration Policy (ELCA)
- Matthew25pledge.org
- Accompany in partnership
- Legal Support
- Individual/Family Campaigns
- Public Witness
- Local, State, Federal Advocacy