

Faith for Community Justice II

Israel was expecting Messiah, a Holy Spirit empowered community deliverer.

Messiah would rearrange everything in favor of the lowly.

The Bible is written from the view point of lowly peasants.

Shepherds, peasants and marginalized people tend to dominate the text of scripture.

Consider **Luke 3:7-18**

The Gospel of Luke begins with Elders waiting, expecting and announcing a Messiah: Anna (2:36) and Simeon (2:25), Zechariah and Elizabeth (1:7).

- Luke ends with *The Next Dimension* of revolutionaries.

The Next Dimension of revolutionaries believed the LORD would restore.

- God is a restorative God.

I

Moses says in The Torah: ^{ESV} **Deuteronomy 15:1** "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. ² And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD'S release has been proclaimed.

Moses also says ^{ESV} **Numbers 35:6** The cities that you give to the Levites shall be the six cities of refuge, **where you shall permit the manslayer to flee**, and in addition to them you shall give forty-two cities.

II

David said in The Writings: ^{ESV} **Psalm 51:12** Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Joel the Prophet says ^{ESV} **Joel 2:25** **I will restore** to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.

III

John the Baptist said in The Gospels: ^{ESV} **Luke 3:10** **And the crowds** asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹² **Tax collectors** also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴ **Soldiers also asked him**, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Paul in The Epistle: ^{ESV} **Galatians 6:1** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, **you who are spiritual should restore him** in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Individuals who have experienced failure are to be restored in a spirit of gentleness.

Forgiveness is instant, restoration takes time. Restoration reconnects us back to God. Restoration reconnects us back to family. Restoration picks us up, cleans us off and establishes us. Restoration repairs us so will never be moved again. Restoration mends what is broken.

**Nehemiah Action May 6, 2019 6:15pm
Celeste Center Ohio State Fairgrounds**

Let's Do Justice!

*Rhema Christian Center, Bishop La Fayette Scales, Resurrection Weekend
Saturday & Sunday, April 20 & 21, 2019*