

**“Let Justice Roll On Like A River”**  
**February 11, 2007 \* Psalm 10**

*I. What is justice?*

“The maintenance or administration of what is just, impartial or fair; the quality of conforming to law” ~ Websters

“Justice occurs when power and authority between people is exercised in conformity with God’s standards of moral excellence.” ~ Gary Haugen, founder *International Justice Mission*

*II. Over the years, many Christians have left issues of justice to government while they work on issues of righteousness.*

*A. With what words did Jesus begin his public ministry?*

**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of the sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19).**

*B. Scripture passages that link righteousness & justice:*

**Isaiah 1:17 – “Stop doing wrong, learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”**

**James 1:27 – “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”**

**Psalm 11:7 – “For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.”**

**Psalm 89:14 – “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of [God’s] throne.”**

**Amos 5:23-24 – “Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.”**

*C. Why is it inadequate to just ‘leave it to the government’?*  
*1. Because government is just one part of God’s provision for bringing moral order to society.*

*What are other authorities God has provided?*  
**The Family and the Church.**

*2. Because injustice is too widespread; government can’t see it all and fix it all.*

*3. Because oftentimes it is government itself that is unjust and needs to be fixed.*

*III. Three Stories Of Christians Working For Justice*

*A. What was wrong in Sister K’s country?*  
**Kidnapping and forced prostitution.**

*B. What was wrong in Brother E’s country?*

**Two million children between the ages of ten and fifteen years old work in textile mills, tobacco-processing plants, mines and other factories. Children work twelve hours a day, six days a week.**

*C. What was wrong in Sister J’s country?*

**In Sister J.’s country summary execution by mobs is a way of life. The majority ethnic group maintains its dominance over the minority ethnic group through the intimidation of extrajudicial murder.**

*D. When and where did all of this occur?*

**The United States of America at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

*E. How many Christians should be involved in the struggle for justice, according to Dr. Haugen?*

**Everyone – it’s an all-hands-on-deck proposition.**

*F. What did he do to make a difference?*

**Time and time again, Haugen would hear reports from missionaries on the field of gross injustices taking place – of church members being arrested or kidnapped or subjected to violence and threats. The missionaries could only do so much in these situations. They lacked training to help. They lacked resources to help. They didn't have the time to help with all their regular duties to attend to. Hearing story after story like this, Gary Haugen decided to form the International Justice Mission in 1997 in which he brought together human rights experts, attorneys and law enforcement professionals to work as advocates on a individual case-by-case basis in nations around the world, utilizing the eyes and ears of the missionary workers already on the field. You can visit their website, [www.ijm.org](http://www.ijm.org) and see for yourself what this ministry is about, and read stories of the impact it is making around the world.**

*IV. Why Should We Fight For Justice?*

- A. Because it is part of our **call** as Christ's followers.*
- B. Because human sin and selfishness is **relentless**; if we let up, it never will.*
- C. Because in rescuing others from their pain we bring **healing** to our own.*

*V. How Can We Make A Difference?*

- A. We can **go** where we are needed.*
- B. We can **send** people who can help.*
- C. We can **pray** for those in the position to do what is necessary.*