

## ***Matthew 23:23 NET***

Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You give a tenth of mint, dill, and cumin, yet you neglect what is more important in the law – **justice, mercy, and faithfulness!** You should have done these things without neglecting the others.

Jesus admonishes the Pharisees regarding their neglect of doing justice, having mercy and being faithful. At times, we sometimes turn a blind eye to certain activities because it is not on the forefront of our minds. Human Trafficking is one of these things.

Human trafficking is often called ‘modern day slavery’. Human trafficking can be defined as the abduction and exploitation of people for the purpose of enslaving them. According to the UN definition, human trafficking means the recruitment, transferring or receipt of persons. This is done by threat or force and could involve abduction or deception for the purpose of exploitation. According to the UNDOC report Global Report on Trafficking in Persons of 2011, 49% of trafficking victims were women, 21% were girls, 18% were men, 12% were boys. The victims of trafficking can be of any age and of any gender, however women are more commonly both victims and offenders; a woman might sometimes be able to escape the terrifying situation by becoming the perpetrator.

**Source: [www.untoldstoriesonline.com](http://www.untoldstoriesonline.com) Human Trafficking in Sub Saharan Africa, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 by Taneem Saeed**

### **Types of Human Trafficking**

79% is from sexual exploitation

18% is from forced labour

3% is from other forms

Organizations such as the Ohio HT Taskforce, The Polaris Project and CATCH Court go a long way to bring awareness to human trafficking in the State of Ohio. They create programs that help **survivors** of human trafficking recover, receive training for alternate employment, and contribute to society in a healthy and sustainable way.

### **Consider**

#### ***Exodus 1: 11-14***

‘So they put foremen over the Israelites **to oppress them with hard labor.** As a result they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more

the Egyptians oppressed them, the more they multiplied and spread. As a result the Egyptians loathed the Israelites, and they made the Israelites serve rigorously. They **made their lives bitter** by hard service with mortar and bricks and by all kinds of service in the fields. Every kind of service the Israelites were required to give was rigorous.’ NET

Human trafficking is meant to **oppress** with hard labor and by breaking the spirit.

Hard labor and the abuse of the body makes the life **bitter** because the work is with **harshness**.

There will always be people who try to keep the **mouth** of the oppressed **closed**.

Reference *Mark 10:47-48 KJV*

“And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me. And many hanged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David, have mercy on me.”

### **Show Mercy**

**Mercy** is compassionate or kindly forbearance shown toward an offender, an enemy or another person in one’s power.

Many people are waiting for someone to help them address their **needs**.

*John 5:4-8 KJV*

‘For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity † thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, **Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while † I am coming, another steppeth down before me.**’ KJV

What can sometimes sound like an **excuse**, is often a cry for help.

There comes a time when we look inside ourselves and discover what we can do to **help others**.

Offenders being re-introduced to society have little to no voice in the community, and it often falls to the **voice** of **others** to help bring about justice.

## **Do Justice**

**Justice** is the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness and to uphold the justice of a cause.

To do justice in a political society entails either contributing money to solve a problem or compelling the masses to speak truth to power.

In the Kingdom of God, justice is to do what is right and equitable, **employing** the **wisdom** of God to do judgment.

Consider

### ***1 Kings 3:25-28 KJV***

‘And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: **for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.**’

As Kingdom Citizens in the community we must be **compassionate**, show mercy and be equitable to all mankind. Reference *Matthew 9:35-37*

We must be diligent (faithful) in **promoting** equity. Reference *Acts 10:34*

## **Be Faithful**

### ***1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV***

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

To be found faithful is to be trustworthy or relied upon. Therefore, we shall be diligent in **being just** and in doing justice.

### ***John 8:1-11*** – consider the woman caught in adultery

*John 8:7* “So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”

Because our Savior was just, it was customary for him to administer justice.

His actions not only exemplified justice, but also **restoration**.

Jesus' ministry was righteous, just, and merciful.

**We are to:**

- show compassion
- Be just
- Advance the Kingdom of God while advocating for justice
- Be faithful in doing justice

**Doing so lights a fire, causing us to become contagious influencers of our World!**

**Join us at the Nehemiah Action – May 7, 2018 at The Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds**

*Rhema Christian Center  
Deacon Jacqueline Taylor  
Sunday, April 22, 2018  
8:00 a.m.*