

5 Day Reading Plan – Compassion and Justice: Second Chances

Day 1: Understanding Compassion and Justice

Read and reflect on Psalm 86:15, which describes God as a compassionate and gracious God. Meditate on the meaning of compassion and justice as demonstrated in the gospel. Consider how these values align with our Christian faith and our response as citizens of the Kingdom.

Day 2: Compassionate Politics

Read Matthew 25:31-46, where Jesus uses the metaphor of separating the sheep from the goats to describe his second coming. Reflect on how Jesus commends those who alleviate human suffering and condemns those who ignore it. Consider how your political views and actions can align with the compassionate message of the gospel.

Day 3: Extending Second Chances

Read Ephesians 4:28 and explore the apostle Paul's instruction to former thieves. Reflect on the concept of second chances and the declaration that we are not defined solely by our past mistakes. Consider ways in which you can extend second chances to those who have been incarcerated, acknowledging the need for rehabilitation, restoration, and community support.

Day 4: Justice Reform and Restorative Practices

Study Hebrews 13:3 and reflect on the call to remember and show compassion to those who are in prison. Explore the concept of restorative justice and its potential to bring healing and restoration to individuals, families, and communities affected by incarceration. Consider the importance of supporting justice reform initiatives and engage in further research on this topic.

Day 5: Taking Action

Read James 2:14-17 and consider specific actions you can take to address the issue of incarceration in your community, such as volunteering with organizations like Prison Fellowship, advocating for justice reform, and supporting formerly incarcerated individuals in their reintegration process.