



WHAT IS JUSTICE?

PSALM 33 (RSV)

- ¹ Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
- ² Praise the Lord with the lyre,
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
- ³ Sing to him a new song,
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
- ⁴ For the word of the Lord is upright;
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
- ⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.
- ⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
- ⁷ He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the Lord,
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
- ⁹ For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood forth.
- ¹⁰ The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nought;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
- ¹¹ The counsel of the Lord stands for ever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
- ¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!
- ¹³ The Lord looks down from heaven,
he sees all the sons of men;
- ¹⁴ from where he sits enthroned he looks forth
on all the inhabitants of the earth,

- ¹⁵ he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.
- ¹⁶ A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
- ¹⁷ The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.
- ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
- ¹⁹ that he may deliver their soul from death,
and keep them alive in famine.
- ²⁰ Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
- ²¹ Yea, our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.
- ²² Let thy steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in thee.

WHY PSALM 33?

- a. Doable in 1 setting
- b. Common ground
- c. Points to next steps

HOW TO READ POETRY

- a. Pronoun antecedents
- b. Parallelism
- c. Repeated words
- d. Theological words
- e. Visualize the pictures
- f. Reword poetry into prose

ROLE OF PSALMS

- a. Orientation (plain; 8, 33, 104, 145: 21 psalms)
- b. Disorientation (pit; 2-7; 70 psalms)
- c. Reorientation (peak; 11, 18, 23; 59 psalms)

HOW DOES PSALM 33 HELP US WITH JUSTICE?

1. Common ground for discussion of justice
2. Justice is about God
 - a. Instead of your shame you shall have a double portion, instead of dishonor you shall rejoice in your lot; therefore in your land you shall possess a double portion; yours shall be everlasting joy. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them (Isaiah 61:7-8).

- b. For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. The righteous shall be preserved for ever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall possess the land, and dwell upon it forever. The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, and his tongue speaks justice (Psalm 37:28-30).
 - c. Mighty King, lover of justice, thou hast established equity; thou hast executed justice and righteousness in Jacob (Psalm 99:4).
 - d. Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; for truth has fallen in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice (Isaiah 59:14-15).
- 3. Justice is about words
 - 4. Justice is also about righteousness
 - 5. Justice is about creation
 - 6. Justice is in context of worship
 - 7. Justice is about salvation and deliverance