

Faith-Rooted Organizing
Mobilizing the Church for the Under-Resourced
Whole Gospel Discipleship not “Hole in the Gospel”
Discipleship
Following the Jesus who Transforms the World



Starting with the Word

Love Mercy
Do Justice
Walk Humbly
Micah 6:8

Loving Mercy

HOW DOES THE
WORLD
BREAK YOUR HEART?



God's Broken Heart

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus

- Matthew 9:35-37: Com-**passion** – Seeing through Jesus' eyes...
- Not invisible any more...Luke 16 – **an “invisible person”**
- Fully Visible -- Entertaining angels (Hebrews 13:2) – **an “angel”?**
- Brothers and sisters in one Family (Ephesians 3:14-15) – **your brother or sister?**
- Now you are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-26) – **part of your body?**
- Seeing the crowd – **belonging to what crowd? (from mercy to justice...)**

Tools for Responding to a World that Breaks our Hearts

- Stewardship Principle – what did Jesus give? Giving it all! Intelligent and effective love...
- **Giving a Fish** – Direct Service -- doing “for”
- **Teaching people to Fish** – Individual Development
- **Fishing Together** -- Community Development (people doing it for themselves together – alternative systems)
- **Removing the Barrier around the Pond** – Organizing and Advocacy (engaging the systems that affect our lives)
- Faith-Rooted – as if God is real and Jesus risen



Giving it All

Direct Service Community Development Broader Systems

Soup Kitchen Community Garden School Lunches

Tutoring Charter Schools Equal Quality

Job Training Coops/Incubators Redlining

Shelter Habitat for Humanity Affordable HD

Parish Nurse Community Health Clinic Health Access

When have you experienced any of these tools?

Reactions and Insights to Session #1

The Unique Contribution
Of Christians
To Doing Justice and
Loving Mercy
“As if God is real and Jesus Risen”

Justice in the Process

Building the Body – 1 Cor. 12:12-27

- ² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by^[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Justice in the Process

Acts 6:1-7

- In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews^[a] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."
- ⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.
- ⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Divine Purpose of Government

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
- ¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight. (Psalm 72)

Mt. 10:18 – Wise as Serpents and Innocent as Doves

- Serpent Wisdom – Luke 18:1-8:
- And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; ³ and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ ⁴ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, ⁵ yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” ⁶ And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Serpent Power

1. Power = Force of law, Wealth, Influence, Numbers
2. Self-Interest and the Negotiation of Interests
3. Constituency, Connections and Case
4. Direct Communication
5. Indirect Communication
6. Escalation

2 Samuel 12:1-12

- ¹ The LORD sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. ² The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, ³ but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. ⁴ “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”
- ⁵ David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the LORD lives, the man who did this must die! ⁶ He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.”
- ⁷ Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. ⁹ Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰ Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’
- ¹¹ “This is what the LORD says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. ¹² You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”
- ¹³ Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”
- Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.”

Dove Power

- Frederick Douglas – power never cedes power without a struggle vs. the struggle in the soul
- Becoming an ally of the Holy Spirit
- Human beings not targets
- Poor have the power already



Dove Power

- Prayer
- Pastoral Support – Chaplaincy – encouragement
- Prophetic Call:
 1. Re-member the Poor
 2. Dreams and Visions
 3. Exposing and Combatting Lies
 4. Reaching both sides of the Brain

Called by Name:
Inspiring Participation
and Exercising Leadership

Inspiring Participation

- Understanding the barriers
- Faith-Rooted One-on-Ones
- Called by Name –Reflect on the following questions, share your answers with a partner and reflect together on how the flame could be fanned in each of you in order to get you out into the public square:
- When and where did you first realize that there was a connection between faith and justice?
- Whose pain moves you most?
- What makes your heart sing?
- Where is the connection between your own deep gladness and the world's deep hunger?
- Are you carrying on a legacy? Passing one on?

According to our Gifts

Body of Christ Exercise



Sustaining the Struggle

- Supporting Families
- Creating Sabbath
- Victory, Lamentation and Hope
- Renewing Relationships



Taking it Home

Mercy and Justice:

❖ On Campus

- Justice Discipleship Cycle
- Ministry to and partnership with Campus Justice Groups
- Ministry with and for low-wage campus workers

❖ In the Church and Community

- Urban Projects

- #urbanD Partnerships with local churches and orgs