

Week Two - February 28th, 2021 - When Grace and Justice Collide, Story of Javert
Class Assignment: Read chapter 2, pages 41-60.

Lesson Aim – Session Theme:

1. How to navigate between the letter and spirit of God’s commands.
2. To explore the complexity of ethical decision making.
3. To contemplate biblical and theological understanding of justice.

Reflection Questions:

1. Describe Javert. Good or bad? Holy or evil?
2. Compare concepts of ‘right and wrong’ with ‘law-keeping and law-breaking.
3. Consider... do God’s commands involve both “spirit” and “letter”.
4. Do you identify with Javert? Why or why not?
5. Define justice.
6. How does your faith shape your understanding of mercy and punishment?

Video Discussion:

1. When does mercy prevail over strict law-keeping?
2. How are such judgments made, and why?
3. How do we learn to discern right from wrong?
4. How does Christian teaching help shape our vision of justice?
5. How can enforcing the law be helpful? How might it be unhelpful?
6. What do the Pharisees have in common with Javert?

The Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."

Scripture Discussion:

1. What is the meaning of righteousness?
2. What does it mean “*training in righteousness*”?
3. How do we maintain the spirit of the law while not ignoring the letter?
4. How do we maintain justice while acting with mercy?