



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

CROSSROADS CHURCH - 3 YEAR CAMPAIGN TO END THIRST

SOAP READING—March 15, 2010

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S: Isaiah 59:15-19

Isaiah 59.15b-16 “The LORD looked and was displeased to find there was no justice. He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm, and his justice sustained him.”

O: Uh-oh! This is not good! Where are the people of God?

There is a certain expectation in this passage that someone should be doing something about those who are oppressed. But for whatever reason, those people are not there. And God says, “If you are not going to do what you are supposed to do, I will show up and do it myself. Next time, don’t make me do it myself!”

In the Old Testament time, the nation of Israel was supposed to advocate for equal rights and respect for all. Now, the New Testament commissions the church to represent that role in the world.

The church is supposed to make sure that orphans are fathered and widows are fed. The church is supposed to protect the oppressed and rebuild the abused. The church is supposed to make sure that God doesn’t have to come down and do it himself.

So, how are we doing with that?

A: We (my wife and I) sponsor two kids. We volunteer at the church. We take advantage of service projects as our schedule permits.

I know there is more we can do.

I know there is more we need to do.

P: Father, create in me a desire to become a “defender of the weak.” Work through me to meet the needs of those around me so that you don’t have to step in and do it yourself. Amen!