

Church in the Community -4 Justice and Mercy in the Old Testament: Part 2

(Pass out verses to read.)

Ezekiel 47:9 (NKJV) *And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.*

Alive in Christ

Ezekiel 37:1–6 (NKJV) *The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ³ And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” ⁴ Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!’ ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.” ‘ ‘*

1 Chronicles 18:12 (NKJV) *Moreover Abishai the son of Zeruiah killed eighteen thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.*

John 6:63 (NKJV) *It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV) *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Matthew 7:16 *"You will know them by their fruits.*

Titus 2:6, 7, 14 *Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of **good works**;...: who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for **good works**.*

***1 Timothy 6:18** *Let them do good, that they be rich in **good works**, ready to give, willing to share,*

A Flowing River

Ezekiel 47:1–8 (NKJV) *Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the*

temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. ² He brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. ³ And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. ⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. ⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. ⁶ He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. ⁷ When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. ⁸ Then he said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.

“Our work has been presented to me as, in its beginning, a small, very small, rivulet.” - Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 171.

Elisha Heals Waters

2 Kings 2:19–22 (NKJV) ⁹ *Then the men of the city said to Elisha, “Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren.” ²⁰ And he said, “Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it.” So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went out to the source of the water, and cast in the salt there, and said, “Thus says the Lord: ‘I have healed this water; from it there shall be no more death or barrenness.’ ” ²² So the water remains healed to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke.*

Matthew 5:13 (NKJV) *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

It is estimated that there are over 14,000 different uses for salt.

The word Salt appears 45 times in the Bible. Sodium Chloride.

***Genesis 18:32 (NKJV)** *Suppose ten should be found there?” And He said, “I will not destroy it for the sake of ten.”*

Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light (Faith) so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Giant Mirrors Illuminate Town

The villages of Rjukan, Norway, and Viganella, Italy, are both situated in deep valleys where mountains block the sun's rays for up to six months every year. To illuminate those darker winter months, the two towns have built gigantic mirrors that track the sun and reflect daylight downwards. Viganella completed its huge computer-controlled mirror in 2006, and Rjukan followed suit in October, 2013, mounting a mirror that reflects a 600 square meter (6,500 square foot) beam of sunshine into the town square below.

The Church: A Source of Life

Ezekiel 47:9 (NKJV) *And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes.*

Ezekiel 47:10 (NKJV) *It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many.*

Ezekiel 47:12 (NKJV) *Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."*

Revelation 22:1–2 (NKJV) *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ² In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

***Jeremiah 17:7–8** (NKJV) *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.*

Jubilee Promises

Isaiah 61:1–3 *"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give*

them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

***Luke 4:18** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

The Church-A Change Agent

Micah 6:1–8 (NKJV) *Hear now what the Lord says: "Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, O you mountains, the Lord's complaint, And you strong foundations of the earth; For the Lord has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel. ³ "O My people, what have I done to you? And how have I wearied you? Testify against Me. ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O My people, remember now What Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, From Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the Lord." ⁶ With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*

God has shown us what is "good," and this "good" is the same word used in Genesis 1:1-31, referring to the pre-Fall Creation.

***Ecclesiastes 12:13–14** (NKJV) *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*