



## Week 5: What Would Jesus Say to America? February 20

**Focus Scripture** I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the LORD.... Thus says the LORD: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place. For if you will indeed obey this word, then through the gates of this house shall enter kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their servants, and their people. But if you will not heed these words, I swear by myself, says the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation. (Jeremiah 9:24b; 22:3-5) From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. (Luke 12:48b)

∞ Read Luke 4:16-21. Jesus claimed Isaiah 61 as his “personal mission statement,” identifying himself with the God of mishpat, tzedekah, and hesed. What led people to reject a Messiah who lived by those three qualities? How would you respond to a candidate who defined his/her mission as Jesus did? Meditate on the passage, asking God to align your attitude and actions with those of Jesus.

∞ Read Isaiah 32:16-18. Think of a situation that is causing you stress. Is there any way that living more fully into justice (mishpat) and righteousness (tzedakah) might bring greater peace and quietness to your heart? Pray about this now.

∞ Read Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:1-16. How can you, as a Christian, live in ways that would help Jesus say what he wants to say to America? What’s one specific change you will make to live as a more faithful witness to the Bible’s teachings? Ask God to help you make this change.

∞ Read Luke 12:42-48. What do you believe you have been given? In a time of prayer, ask what God is calling you to do with what you have been given.

∞ Read Matthew 28:16-20. In these verses, Jesus says that those who follow him are to make disciples, baptizing and teaching others. God calls us to a lifetime journey of becoming a deeply committed Christian. Does this journey make an impact on how you live in America? What do you think God’s dream for America might be? How could you live as a part of that dream? Share your thoughts with God in a time of prayer.

**(These questions are to prepare for small group on February 20) © 2018 ABINGDON PRESS**