A WORLD OF GOOD
A GLOBAL STRATEGY PODCAST

Joseph the Just

Season 6, Ep. 11: Joseph the Just (2022)
www.chogglobal.org/S6E11 (19 min)

Key Takeaway

Biblical justice is not merely about enforcing rules but about demonstrating righteousness, mercy, and faithfulness in relationship with others.

SUMMARY

In this season finale episode, Andrew and Nate reflect on Advent, Christmas traditions, and a profound insight from Kenneth Bailey's book *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*. Focusing on Matthew 1:18-19, they explore why Joseph is described as a "just" man when his actions seem to depart from the strict legal expectations of his day. The conversation challenges listeners to reconsider biblical justice, not primarily as punishment or legal correctness, but as compassion, mercy, humility, and right relationship with others.

Scripture passage: Matthew 1:18-25

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Listen: 8:45-11:30.* When you hear the word justice, what comes to mind? How does Joseph's response to Mary's situation challenge or expand your understanding of justice?
2. *Listen: 11:35-13:31.* Can you think of a time when showing mercy required greater strength or wisdom than simply enforcing rules? What did you learn from that experience?
3. *Listen: 16:01-17:30.* Why do you think Jesus connected spiritual transformation with practical compassion? How can churches better hold these together?
4. In what ways did Jesus embody a different kind of justice than what the world often expects? How does that shape the church's mission today?

REFLECTION QUESTION

Consider a relationship, disagreement, or difficult situation in your life. What would it look like to respond with Joseph's kind of justice, one that is rooted in compassion and humility rather than simply asserting your rights or proving you are right? What specific action could you take this week to practice that kind of justice?