

Edmund Rice Reflection July 2016

A reflection on social justice

To begin we will start with a couple of different quotes. Each quote expresses a different perspective on what social justice is, what it involves, and how it can be expressed in today's world.

Give 4 people a quote to read, I read the first one

1. "I cannot say whether things will get better if we change; what I can say is that they must change if they are to get better."

— **Georg Christoph Lichtenberg**

2. "The opposite of poverty is not wealth. In too many places, the opposite of poverty is justice."

— **Bryan Stevenson**

3. "Genuine equality means not treating everyone the same, but attending equally to everyone's different needs."

— **Terry Eagleton**

4. "Social justice has to do with issues such as poverty, inequality, war, racism, sexism, abortion, and lack of concern for ecology because what lies at the root at each of these is not so much someone's private sin but rather a huge, blind system that is inherently unfair."

— **Ronald Rolheiser**

5. "The world howls for social justice, but when it comes to social responsibility, you sometimes can't even hear crickets chirping."

— **Dean Koontz**

These quotes show how complex and varied the term 'social justice' is. There is not one clear definition, but a multitude of interpretations that are underlined by themes of advocacy, liberation, ethics, action, and equity/equality.

The first question for tonight's reflection is **What does the term 'social justice' mean to you? Who does it effect? Who is involved? How can it be put into action?** Please keep in mind that there is no wrong answer. This is about your own personal interpretation and perspective.

Song: Imagine – John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today
Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace

You may say I'm a dreamer

But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be as one

From hearing each person's thoughts on social justice **what is one insight you have has about yourself, you life, or the world?**

Presence

Compassion

Liberation

Please finish by saying the Edmund Rice Prayer

Edmund Rice Prayer

O God
We thank you for the life of Edmund Rice
He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed by poverty and
injustice.
May we follow his example of faith and generosity.
Grant us the courage and compassion of Edmund as we seek to live lives of
love and service
We ask this through Christ our Lord
Amen.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever.