



EXCERPT



A Just Passion A Six-Week Lenten Journey

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Lent is the opportune season to confront injustice as we contemplate Christ's suffering together. This collection of Lenten devotions from IVP authors includes short readings, breath prayers, and Scripture passages from the *First Nations Version* to guide readers through a six-week journey of repentance, lament, worship, and healing.

Confronting Justice Through a Lenten Journey

Lent is a season of promise—we have ever before us the coming of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Jesus is the one who in the glorious words of Isaiah will "proclaim good news to the poor," "bind up the brokenhearted," and "proclaim freedom for the captives" (Isaiah 61:1 NIV). But Lent is also a season of repentance. Isaiah continues in 61:8, "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing."

Lent is an ideal time to explore what it means to love the justice of the Lord and to consider whether there is any injustice in the way we live. For those who are in a place of privilege, Lent is a season for examining and confessing our complicity in injustice.

For those who have experienced injustice in their own lives, Lent can be a part of a healing process as we follow Christ's journey through suffering and passion into resurrection. It is a season for lamenting the brokenness we have experienced in our lives and in the world.

These devotionals are designed to be a companion for you in this journey. In this season we can hold our hands and, as Drew Jackson writes, "receive [our] enough." In this devotional we have gathered riches from heaven for you to explore through God's Word, breath prayer, and spiritual reading.

PRACTICING A JUST LENT

In her *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Adele Calhoun defines justice as follows: "Justice seeks to help others through correcting and redressing wrongs. It treats others fairly and shows no favoritism." She says that justice has at its root the desire "to love others by seeking their good." She offers the following practices that we might consider as we seek to live out a call to justice:

- being responsible to God and others
- being a good steward of what you own
- supporting just causes with time, action, and financial support
- treating others impartially and fairly
- providing for the poor, needy, and oppressed through the means available to you
- volunteering for prison ministry, food-bank work, and ministries that serve needs in the local community
- refusing to buy products of companies that take advantage of the poor

Alongside your Lenten reading, consider which of these practices—either giving something up or taking up a new practice—will support you in the desire to focus on both God and neighbor.

—From the introduction by Cindy Bunch, vice president IVP editorial and author of *Be Kind to Yourself*



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