

Beyond the Tinsel

Questions for Application for the Week of December 2, 2013

Part 1 - Seek Justice - Psalm 72:1-4

1. Almost everywhere you go this Christmas season you will see decorations, hear the same Christmas songs and face a barrage of sales, specials and incentives. How does all this Christmas “spirit” make you feel? Do you think our culture’s focus is positive or negative for the church and our mission? Why or why not?

2. The Psalmist prays that God would give the king his “justice” and “righteousness” (Psalm 72:1). How does our culture’s understanding of justice and righteousness differ from God’s and how might it be similar? Looking at Jesus’ earthly ministry, what are some examples of him reflecting God’s heart for the poor and oppressed in contrast to what his culture deemed appropriate?

3. Possessing the desire to execute justice is not enough so the Psalmist prays that the king would also have the ability to do it (Psalm 72:2). How might you be aware of injustice (and even grieved by it) but, as of yet, not done anything to correct it? How might God use you this Christmas season to act upon that knowledge?

4. Too often we utilize statistics and guilt tactics to motivate each other. The Psalmist has a hope that will be for all God’s people and Jesus will one day make that a reality. As one of God’s own, how should Christ’s saving work on your behalf motivate you to mission and how should his life and our future hope encourage us in the face of opposition?

5. How have you been involved in seeking justice in the past and what was your experience? In what ways (if any) might God be practically leading you to respond to this message and how might you get your family or others involved with you?