

Faithful & Just

Joshua 20-21

Focus: on God's faithfulness (to the Levites), through whom He brings justice that points to Christ

Resources:

This sermon by Charles Spurgeon has an interesting re-telling of the story of the cities of refuge from the eyes of one seeking refuge there. It might be a good read aloud for your group (his re-telling begins at point II in his notes):

<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/spurgeon/sermons45.xix.html>



NW's 2018 Priority

Bought: we belong to Christ!

we want to ...

- be captivated by the truth that we belong to Christ, that we are His people and...
- be in awe of this privilege...
- respond in willing obedience...
- invite others to join us!

Discussion:

- Read Joshua 21:1-3, 8, 41-45. Share what you know about who the Levites were. How do you see the virtues of faith and obedience play out in ch. 21? How are you challenged by their example?
- Why does God spread out in cities throughout each tribe rather than giving them their own land?
- Read Joshua 20. What does this chapter teach you about the character of God and what he wants his people to be like?
- How do the cities of refuge point towards Christ as our ultimate refuge? How is Jesus like these cities for us? How is he greater than these cities?
- How do you respond to this quote by pastor Doug Goins, "*The bottom line for you and me is that unless we have fled by faith to Jesus Christ, we have no salvation. It's my sins and your sins that put Jesus on the cross; all of us are guilty of his death. And he is the only Savior. Have you fled to him? Have you responded to his desire to enter your life and forgive your sin?*"

One of the things that concerns me is the way people settle for hanging around the church. In ancient Israel it wouldn't have done much good to move up close to the city of refuge and set up camp outside the wall or the tabernacle. And just hanging around with God's people doesn't make you a Christian. Unless you have personally acknowledged your guilt and your fugitive status and have run to Jesus for refuge, you're not saved. It is so frightening to me to think of someone hearing this and walking away in the words of Hebrews, trampling under their feet what God did for them in Jesus Christ."

- Do you have any friends seeking refuge outside of Christ? Spend time praying for them.

Missional Opps! Challenge your group to love a neighbor well at one of these events!

- Take a neighbor to **Six Sundays in Spring** - this Sunday evening at Joyner Park.