



Read Isaiah 1:1-20

1. Isaiah 1 is a prophecy against the “people of God,” Israel. In it, Isaiah prophesies judgment. List the sins of Israel?
2. Why does Israel commit the sins they do? What would they have to gain from them?
3. What do you think Isaiah means in verse 3? In what way do they not understand or know God?
4. In verses 5-9, what is the condition of the nation of Israel?
5. How do you think the people of Israel felt about the state of their country, especially remembering they saw themselves as God’s chosen people?
6. Verses 10-15 give us insight into the mindset of the Israelites. What do these verses suggest about how the people justify their sins?
7. What is God’s response to their worship?
8. In verses 16-17, how does God say they can remedy the situation? What is “righteousness” in this passage?
9. Typically in our evangelical tradition, we might be surprised to read that social justice, not just “personal holiness” is a sign of righteousness. Why is it so tempting to focus only on inner personal holiness and neglect social holiness?
10. Why do you think God is so concerned about the oppressed, the fatherless, the widows, etc.?
11. Who are the “oppressed, fatherless and widows” in our society?
12. How are you (or will you) help to further the cause of social holiness (justice)? Can you do this alone? Can you do this through the church or other organizations?