



A Heart of Mercy

Romans 2:1-4

April 22nd Second Chance 5k

Registration at 8

Pre-race Rally at 9:05

Race starts at 9:30

Worship and lunch at the church at 11

Register for race with promo code SCMPARTNER20 (Cost \$20)

_____ : everyone plays on a level field.

Our justice system too often creates more injustice:

U.S. Statistics

- The U.S. incarcerates more of its citizens than any nation in the world. (724 per 100,000, Russia is 2nd at 581)
- In 1972, there were 200,000 in prison in the U.S., today there are 2.2 million
- _____ million Americans have been incarcerated at one time.
- The U.S. has 5% of the world population, but _____% of its prisoners.

Racial Disparity in the U.S.

- Blacks represent 12% of the population but _____% of the prison population.
- 1 in _____ black males can expect to spend time in prison
- A person is 11 times more likely to get the death penalty if the victim is white than if the victim is black.
- A person is _____ times more likely to get the death penalty if the defendant is black.

The “war on drugs” disproportionately impacted blacks over whites.

For example:

- The incarceration rate for black men 30-34 without a high school diploma went from 7 to 32%.
- The rate for white men 30-34 without a high school diploma went from 2% to 5%

The greatest determining factors for incarceration are not race, it's _____ and _____.

“Our justice system is more favorable toward the rich and guilty than poor and innocent.”

– Bryan Stevenson, Equal Justice Initiative

There are an estimated 48,000 laws that adversely affect someone with a criminal record.

- A convicted felon cannot vote (for life).
- It's difficult or impossible to get a job, secure housing, admitted to college or volunteer in the community.
- _____% of people released from prison were rearrested within 3 years.

Why should the church care about prisoners?

_____ and _____ are Biblical issues.

- Proverbs 31:8-9
- Jeremiah 22:3
- Isaiah 1:13-17
- Matthew 25:34-36

Romans 2:1-4

One of the core truths of the gospel is that we are all _____.

*“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”
(Romans 2:4)*

Judgment leads to a change of _____, mercy leads to a change of _____.

Transformation is hard, so we settle for _____.

Nothing will change until we develop a bent toward _____.