

TITLE AND NUMBER: 104. Let's sort this out



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Isaiah 1:16-18

Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. 'Come now, let us settle the matter,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Micah 6:8; Isaiah 1:10

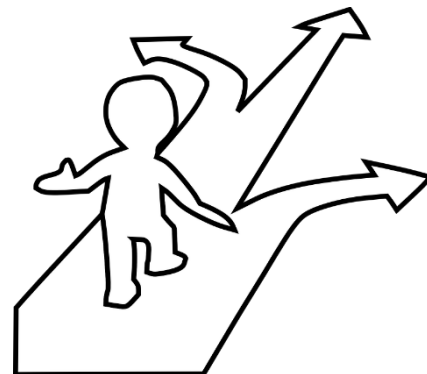
What does this Bible passage tell us?

This passage is part of a message that God sent to a nation that was faced with many difficulties. These problems ranged from attacks from enemies to poor health, and poor harvest (Isaiah 1:6-9). But these difficulties did not just happen overnight; they were because of the bad behaviour and poor choices of individuals in the nation over a period of time.

Sometimes, the difficult times we may face as individuals or groups result from bad choices made. However, God's plan is never to write us off. He will provide a clear direction on what we can do to turn the situation around (Micah 6:8, Isaiah 1:18). But, to see the way forward, we first have to answer the call to 'Come now.' When we answer the call, God draws near to us and helps us to make better decisions.

In this case, the four steps that we must take are to stop doing wrong, learn to do right, seek justice, and defend the oppressed. For many of us, the first of the four is the most important – stop doing wrong! In fact, failing to do what we know is right is just as bad.

Clearly, when faced with choices, the choice we make determines the result. Not answering the call to come to God is to choose to remain in the difficult situation without His help, guidance and comfort.



Reflections:

- Are you happy/satisfied with your present situation? If not, look and see if there are better choices you can make.
- If you are struggling to do what is right, make time to ask for God's help in prayer.
- What does answering the call to come to God mean for you? If you are not sure, ask the Chaplain to help you find out.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

