

## *A Prayer for Social Justice*

*Let us pray!*

*Gracious Father, you are a Might and Good God who showers us with your blessings... Yet we live in a world so much less generous than you. We live in a world that hoards the goods of the earth; a world of first worlds and third worlds; a world of haves and have-nots; or prosperity and poverty.*

*We live in a world where it can be a crime to “drive while black” and a misdemeanor to defraud while white; where drug use is a criminal offense if black and only a sickness if white; a jail sentence for one and six months of rehab for the other.*

*Lord, you said that if we hunger and thirst for justice, we will be satisfied! Hear our prayer, oh God, your people are hungry for justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream, as Isaiah and Martin prayed.*

*But God, remind us that all justice begins with our relationship with you. If justice is to give what is one’s due, then show us where we fail to give you your due.*

*For the times you called us to stand up and lead our families and we didn’t; for the times you asked us to be there for our children and we weren’t; for the times you asked us to be a source of encouragement for our wives and we broke their spirit and demeaned their worth; for the times you asked us to practice what we preached in our pulpits and we refused.*

*Oh Lord, today we ask not only for justice, but for mercy; mercy for our failure to do justice, and mercy for those who fail to extend justice to us.*

*Oh Just Father, have mercy! Amen*

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