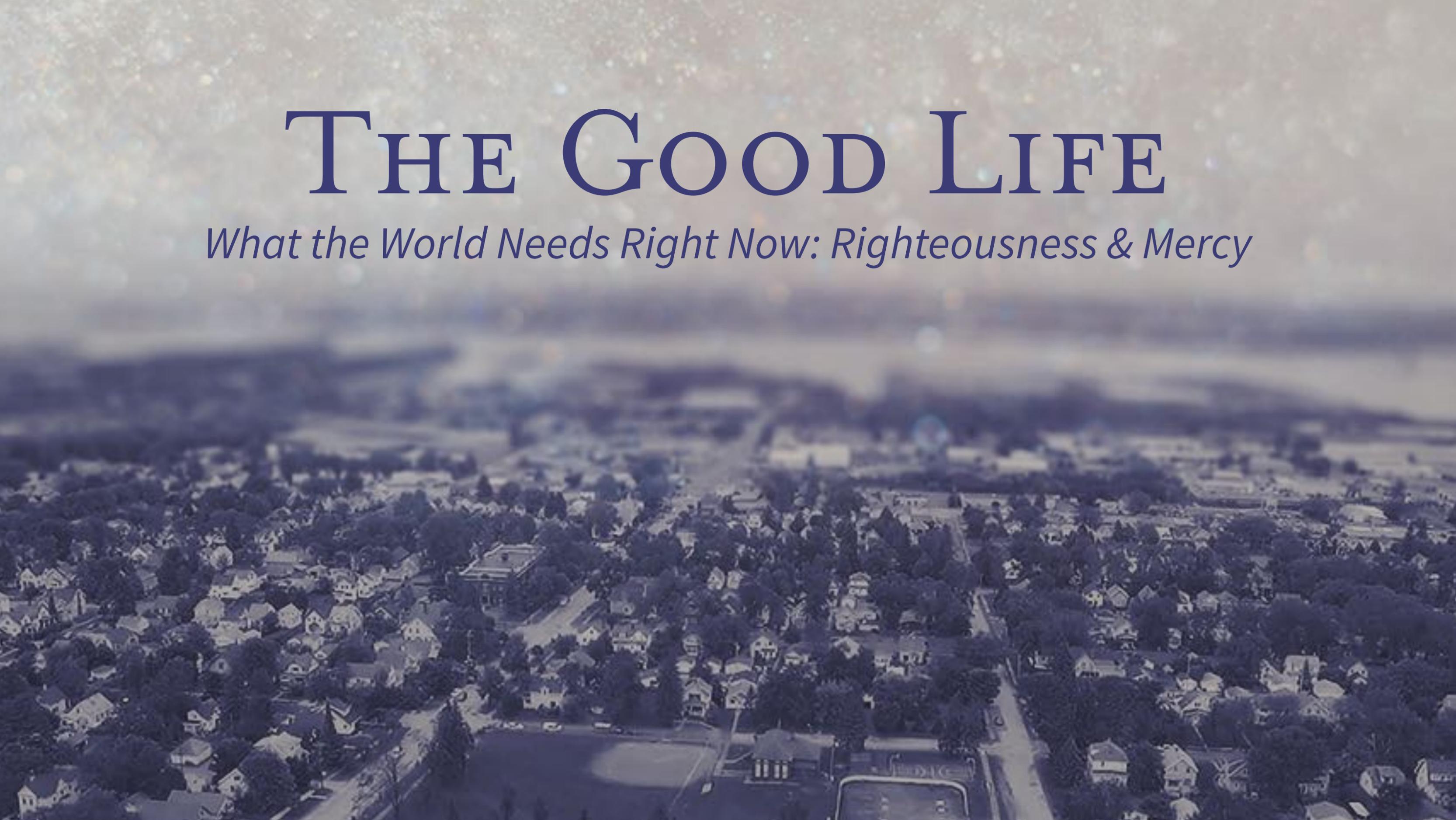


THE GOOD LIFE

What the World Needs Right Now: Righteousness & Mercy



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a long, thin, light-colored object, possibly a piece of wood or a tool. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with fingers wrapped around the object. The background is dark and textured, with some light reflecting off the surface. The overall mood is contemplative and focused.

“everybody gets to play”

“the way in is the way on”

“the kingdom of God is already and not yet”

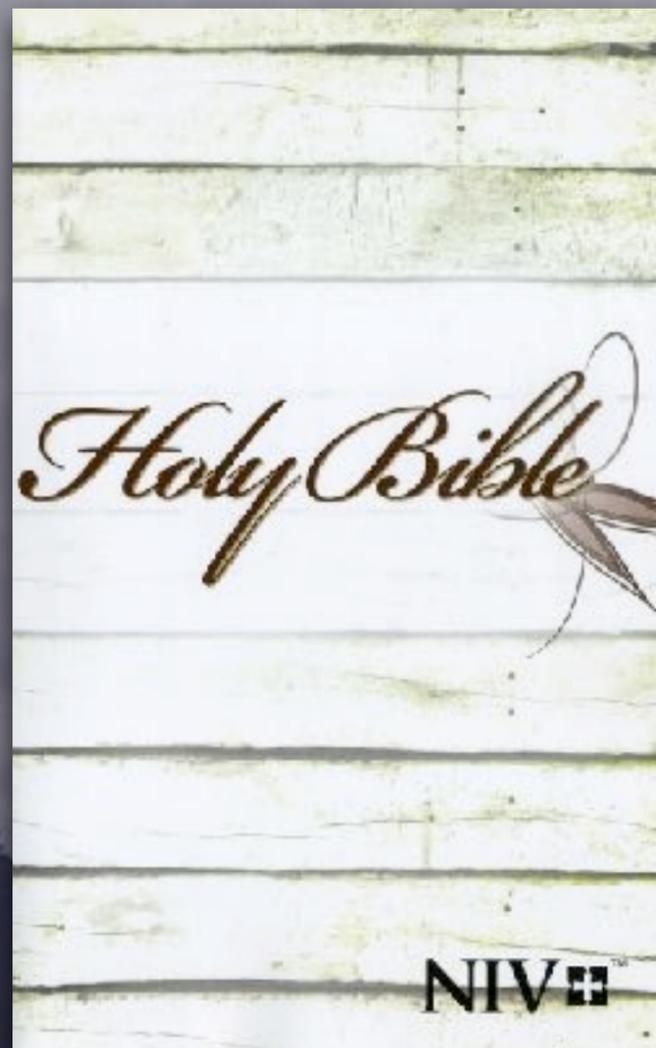


*the values of the kingdom invert the
value system of this present world*

These who have turned the world upside down have come here too, acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king—Jesus.

Acts 17:6-7





Matthew 5:3-7

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I. The Good News Of The Beatitudes



II. Blessed Are Those Who Hunger And Thirst For Righteousness...

A. A longing for true inner transformation

B. A longing for wrongs to be made right

- *The wrong we personally experience*
- *The wrong we see in our world*



A dramatic sky filled with dark, heavy clouds, creating a somber and atmospheric mood. The bottom of the image shows a dark silhouette of a forest with various tree shapes. In the center, white text is overlaid on the sky.

*There is no supremacy in God's Kingdom
except the supremacy of the King*

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11



...and on that day, we will see that we've all been standing on level ground. He's the only one who has been exalted.

Philippians 2:9-11



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- *The wrong we see in our world*

C. The wrong that exists within ourselves





What happened in Charlottesville makes most of us sick. And it would be easy to join the voices speaking out about how disgusting racism is and how terrible violence is. But that's easy. You know what's hard? Owning up to the fact that I have a laundry list of criticisms, resentments and hard-heartedness toward people I do life with and live around—friends, family, neighbors, acquaintances. And that the state of my heart bears some of the same ugliness that happened in Virginia.

#AskingGodToStartWithMyHeart

#TeachMeYourRadicalLove

@TinCupDesign

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

Alexander Solzhenitsyn



It was only when I lay there on the rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good. Gradually it was disclosed to me that the line separating good and evil passes not between states nor between social classes nor between political parties, but right through every human heart, through all human hearts. And that is why I turn back to the years of my imprisonment and say, sometimes to the astonishment of those about me, bless you, prison, for having been a part of my life.

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- *The wrong we see in our world*

C. The wrong that exists within ourselves

... For They Will Be Filled.



III. Blessed Are The Merciful...

- A. Allow the Spirit of God uproot evil in your own heart
- B. Commit to meet hatred, racism, and injustice with love, listening, learning, and repentance
- C. Get face to face with those you disagree with



share a meal with someone who
is different than you

#DuluthVineyard #SharedTables

III. Blessed Are The Merciful...

- A. Allow the Spirit of God uproot evil in your own heart
- B. Commit to meet hatred, racism, and injustice with love, listening, learning, and repentance
- C. Get face to face with those you disagree with
- D. Forgive those who wrong you and others
- E. Invite others into this “blessed” life with God

“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me”.

John 4:34

