

**ATTENTION!!**

**Business Meeting**  
Today at 2:30 p.m.

**MeetUp Class**  
Monday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m.  
28561 Sunnyslope St.  
Desert Hot Springs CA 92241

**Visiting Needs**

**Jesus Said...*"I was sick and you visited Me..."***  
Matthew 25:36

**April Birthdays**

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson 16 Alana Hudson  
23 Shannon Hudson 26 Stori Rose Hoffman

**April Anniversaries**

19 Bill & Kena Brown

# Indio Informer

Vol. 33 No. 15

April 10, 2022

**It's Just Not Fair!**

By Jack Critchfield

The injustices of life often flood our worlds like a torrential cloudburst that refuses to stop. A person whose faith builds a beautiful life falls prey to an unthinkable disease. A person whose generous heart willingly shares "the shirt off his back" is tossed on the reefs of economic calamity. A person of compassion who always helps victims of tragedy is victimized by tragedy. A person whose life is guided by positive attitudes and a refreshing spirit dies much "before their time." It is not fair!

Life's unfairness has been a constant in earthly existence since Adam blamed God and Eve for his failure. The unfairness of injustice never skips a generation--Cain killed Abel, etc. The Bible is a documentary on the realities of injustice. To the extent that evil prospers, the unfairness of injustice abounds.

Christians commonly assume that Christianity "makes everything fair." Some even see "fairness" as a benefit of Christianity. Some see it as a goal, and some see it as Christianity's purpose. It is true that fairness blossoms in the lives of the godly. As we learn to treat others as we want to be treated, those blossoms mature to ripe fruit. Still, the unfairness of injustice is an unremovable constant in everything touched by evil. Everywhere evil exerts influence, the unfairness of injustice thrives. Sometimes Christians conclude (because they belong to Christ) they will not experience the unfairness of injustice. It seems so simple and thus easy to conclude! Then, when disillusionment occurs, we are outraged.

Unfortunately, the unfairness of injustice often blinds us to the unfairness of salvation. Forgiveness is unfair. So is mercy. And so are compassion, kindness, and forbearance. All of them are based

**Regular Meeting Times**

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.  
  
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Website:**  
[indiochurchofchrist.com](http://indiochurchofchrist.com)

**Preacher:**  
Jack Critchfield

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on undeserved consideration. All are built on the preferential treatment of love. None of them concern themselves with what we deserve; they concern themselves only with the noblest expressions of love.

Evil and its consequences are so unfair! In that unfairness is pain, grief, and destruction. God and the consequences of His mercy are so unfair! In that unfairness is peace, joy, hope, and salvation. Thank you, God, for being unfair, for it is in your unfairness that I find love and salvation. Please, God, help us understand how to be unfair as are you, not as is this world.

## God Working in the Background

By Dan Jenkins

The Bible clearly says, *“Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father above”* (James 1:17). While we might sometimes misunderstand what is truly good, there is no doubt that there has never been a good and perfect gift which does not come from God. It is so wonderful to read the Bible and see where God reveals just how He often works in the background to bring blessings to His people.



Think of the providence of God in the life of Joseph and how it shows He works. Years before anyone understood what was actually happening, God gave Joseph two dreams about what some day would come about. The first dream concerned his brothers’

bundles of wheat bowing down to Joseph’s bundle. When he told his brothers this dream, their hatred of him became even greater. When he told them of the second dream, where the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph, his father, Jacob, rebuked him by saying, *“What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?”* (Genesis 37:7-10).

Because we know the “rest of the story,” we read and immediately understand how all of this came about. There was no way Jacob, Joseph or any of his brothers could have imagined how this would happen, even as it was happening. This is such a revelation about how God used events (even the jealous hatred Joseph’s brothers had, the lies of Potiphar’s wife and the seven years of famine) to accomplish His purpose. Any of them could have asked at various times in their lives, “Where is God?” It is only afterwards that Joseph could look backwards and say to his brothers, *“God sent me before you to preserve life... You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive”* (Genesis 45:50; 50:20).

Some might foolishly say, “Jacob and his children were so lucky that Joseph was the ruler in Egypt.” It was not luck—it was God working in the shadows. How do we know this for certain? It is because God foretold it in the two dreams. The only way anyone can know that a specific event was God working in the shadows is for God to speak to that specific event and say, “I did that.” To see this, read the words of Mordecai to Esther about all that had happened to enable her to become Queen of Persia. *“Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this”* (Esther 4:14). Without divine revelation, we cannot know any specific event happens because God changed the world to make it happen. We do not need to know, for it is enough to know that every good gift comes from our Father.

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