

# Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon

*Matthew 21:33-40*

**Main idea:** To provide a comprehensive understanding of social justice and stewardship from a biblical perspective

**Topic:** Social Justice, Stewardship

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Suggestions for moving forward with your sermon:

1. Expand on the concept of social justice: You can explore other biblical passages that emphasize the importance of justice and fairness, such as Micah 6:8 ("He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.") This verse can support your point about the need for social justice and how it aligns with God's expectations for us.
2. Discuss the concept of stewardship in more detail: Look into passages like Genesis 1:26-28 ("Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'") This verse highlights humanity's responsibility to care for and steward God's creation. You can emphasize how our actions towards the environment and resources reflect our faithfulness to this calling.
3. Explore the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37): This parable illustrates the importance of showing compassion and actively engaging in social justice. By

incorporating this passage, you can emphasize the practical implications of being mindful of the world we live in and how we can actively contribute to positive change.

4. Consider incorporating passages that highlight God's heart for justice: Isaiah 1:17 ("Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.") and Proverbs 31:8-9 ("Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.") These verses can further reinforce the importance of social justice and stewardship.

5. Utilize language suggestions from the original languages: For example, in Matthew 21:33-40, you can highlight the word "vineyard" (Greek: *ampelōn*) and its symbolic significance in the context of stewardship and social justice. Additionally, explore other instances where the word "vineyard" is used in the Bible, such as Isaiah 5:1-7, and draw parallels to your sermon's message.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and passages seamlessly into your existing sermon, reinforcing your main points and providing a comprehensive understanding of social justice and stewardship from a biblical perspective.