

# Christmas: the Gift of beginning

## *Today: The End of Injustice*

Isaiah 59:14-16



Charles Dickens

A Christmas Carol  
- 1843

THE MAN WHO  
INVENTED  
CHRISTMAS  
Based on the inspiring true story

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Dickens describes Christmas as "a good time: a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time: the only time I know of in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of other people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys." David Purdue



Question: Why do we need a scrooge to understand Christmas?



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# The Beginning

Matthew 1:21-23, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us)."

## The Prophesy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel.”

## The Prophesy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:6, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

# The Prophesy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 53:4-6, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned - every one - to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

# Why did we need saving?

## Isaiah: People are scrooged up



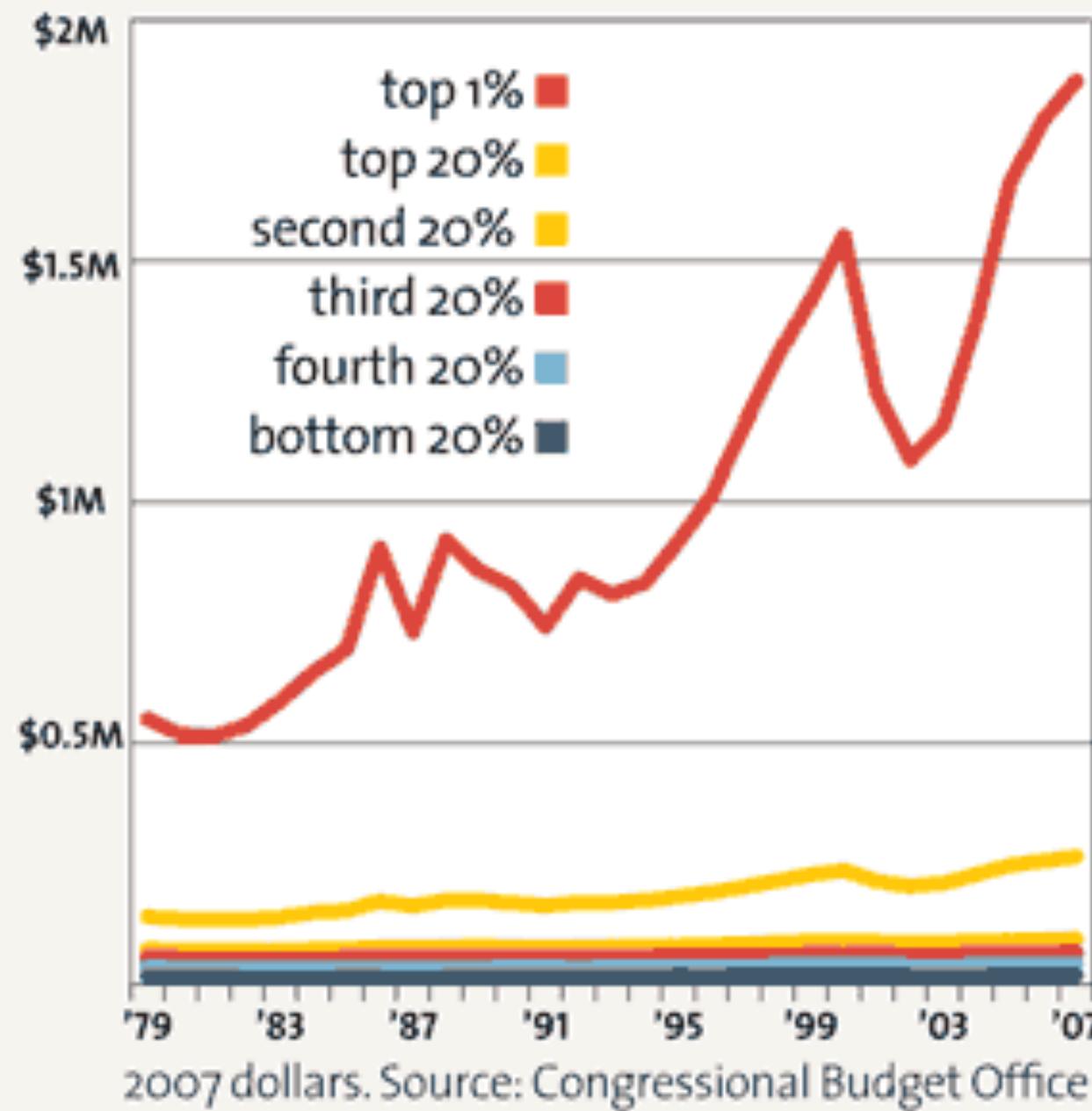
Isaiah 59:14-16

**The world's  
not a fair  
place.**

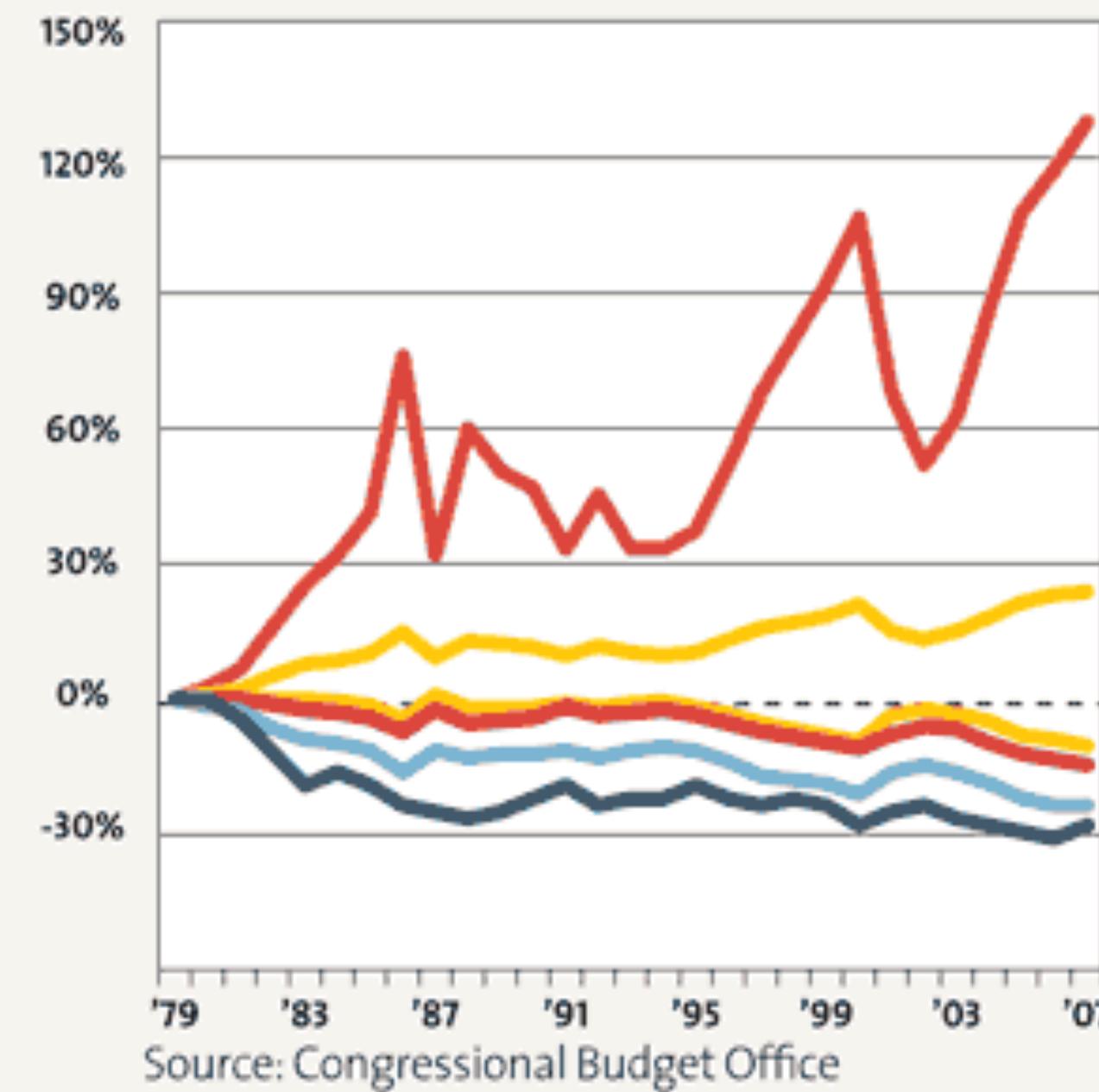


**“The top 1 percent now owns 50.1 percent of the world's wealth, up from 45.5 percent in 2001.” Oxfam**

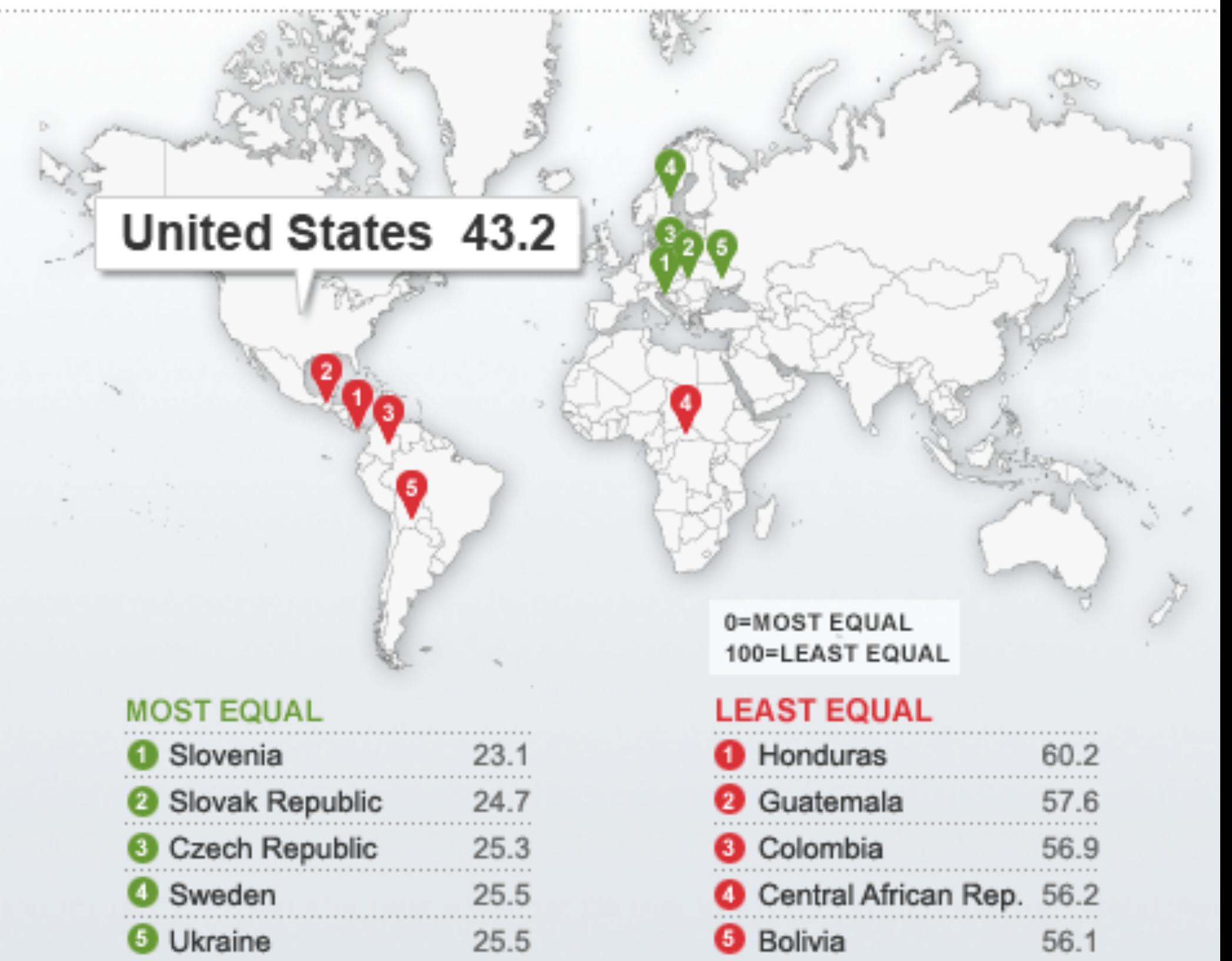
## AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME before taxes



## CHANGE IN SHARE OF INCOME vs. 1979, after taxes



## INCOME INEQUALITY AROUND THE WORLD



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“It takes cash and assets worth \$68,800 to get into the top 10%, and \$760,000 to be in the 1%.” Oxfam



In my view, there is no justice when the 15 wealthiest people in this country in the last two years, saw their wealth increase by \$170 billion. That is more wealth acquired in a two year period than is owned by the bottom 130 million Americans.

— *Bernie Sanders* —

AZ QUOTES

**"Combined with his Senate salary, he (Bernie Sanders) likely cleared \$1 million in earnings."**

CNBC

John 12:4-6, “But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.”

What is the answer to this prayer?

**“Please God, save us from evil.”**

Isaiah 58:1-2, "Cry aloud; do not hold back; lift up your voice like a trumpet; declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the judgment of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they delight to draw near to God."

Isaiah 58:3-4, “Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?' Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high.”

## Why cant we be good?

Isaiah 59:14-15, “Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.”

# So what do we do?



# So what do we do?

*“But when one masters this wretched desire, which is so hard to overcome, then one's sorrows just drop off, like a drop of water off a lotus.” Buddha*

So what do we do?

And never think that  
Allah is unaware of what  
the wrongdoers/unjust  
do. He only delays them  
for a Day when eyes will  
stare [in horror].

Quran 14:42

So what do we do?



I'm starting with the man  
in the mirror  
I'm asking him to change  
his way  
And no message could  
have been any clearer  
if you wanna make the  
world a better place  
take a look at yourself,  
and make a change

If we could save ourselves we would have.

We need a Saviour

# Christmas: The End of Injustice

Isaiah 59:16, “He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation and his righteousness upheld him.”

## Jesus meets Scrooge.

Luke 19:5-8, “And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”

## The Fruit of being Loved: Justice

I John 3:16-17, “By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?”

## The Fruit of being Loved: Justice

I John 4:10-11, “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”