**Action:**

**Getting to Know You:** If you had a magic wand and could make one world problem disappear, what would it be?

**Watch:** Urban Insights: Tim Keller - 'Social Justice'  (4:43)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yB__3_Fhq0>

1. Tim Keller said, “Unless the people of the community see you laying yourself out for them in deeds of justice and mercy, caring about the neighborhood and the good of your neighbors, they aren’t going to believe that your evangelism is anything other than recruitment… they will see it as tribalism…Deeds of justice without evangelism means that you are dooming people, because ultimately what they need is to be saved for eternity. If you do preaching without deeds of justice, people will not listen to your evangelism.” How have you seen this in life? What organizations get this right or how have you seen this done well?
2. Tim Keller discussed that there can be a barrier between the helpers and those being helped because of cultural differences. What can break that barrier?
3. While the video was filmed, sirens can be heard in the background. Does this real-life reminder of the world’s brokenness trigger anything in you?

**Read** Esther 3:8-11, 4:6-17  New International Version (NIV)

***8****Then Haman said to King Xerxes, “There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king’s laws; it is not in the king’s best interest to tolerate them.****9****If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talentsof silver to the king’s administrators for the royal treasury.”*

***10****So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews.****11****“Keep the money,” the king said to Haman, “and do with the people as you please.”…*

*Mordecai Persuades Esther to Help*

***46 ….****So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king’s gate.****7****Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews.****8****He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king’s presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.*

***9****Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said.****10****Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai,****11****“All the king’s officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”*

***12****When Esther’s words were reported to Mordecai,****13****he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king’s house you alone of all the Jews will escape.****14****For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”*

***15****Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:****16****“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”*

***17****So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther’s instructions.”*

**Discuss:**

1. What problem was Esther facing? What problems or brokenness tug at your heart?
2. Does Mordecai believe that you can turn a blind eye to social problems? What is your proof from the passage? If Mordecai was saying this to you, would you be inspired or terrified?
3. God is not mentioned in the Book of Esther. Inspite of that, how can we see God at work in her story?
4. What type of personalities are typically associated with doing the Heart Application of Action? If you don’t have one of these personalities, is that an excuse?
5. Mother Teresa has said, “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” Not everyone can stop a holocaust against the Jewish people, is there something that you could do on a smaller scale?
6. What role do fasting and praying play when focusing on the Heart Application of Action? What does Action look like without prayer?
7. Mordecai had a servant heart. Esther 10:3 says, “Mordecai the Jew was second in rank to King Xerxes, preeminent among the Jews, and held in high esteem by his many fellow Jews, because he worked for the good of his people and spoke up for the welfare of all the Jews.” Pray and ask God to give you a servant heart that works for the good of His people.

**Application: This week, if possible, try to do one of the following.**

1. When you read or watch the news, reflect on God’s faithfulness despite the evils of the world and ask Him to comfort, strengthen, and intervene in the situation.
2. Serve Jesus at a local para-church organization or ministry.
3. Write a letter to your congressperson about an issue that you are concerned about.
4. Pray for your town as you drive around doing errands.
5. Wherever you go, sit next to the loneliest person in the room and show them they are valued in Christ.