

The Old Testament and the Common Good

Season 3, Episode 4

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Questions for reflection and/or group conversations

1. The Old Testament offers a social and economic "reset button" through its instructions on how to observe the Year of Jubilee (see Leviticus 25:8-55; 27:16-25; Deuteronomy 15:1-8). After reflecting on the texts, suggest some practical ways that the Jubilee principle might be demonstrated in the U. S. economy. Keep in mind that the changes are often incremental in nature.
2. Can you identify examples where the church and Christians separate "faith from daily living, theology from ethics? What harm do you think results from this separation?
3. Several Old Testament themes were discussed in the podcast, such as justice, shalom, and Jubilee. What others do you think should be added to this list?
4. The message of the prophets grew out of the breakdown of community in Israel's experience. Society found itself "out of balance." In what ways do you see contemporary society as out of balance?
5. The Old Testament is candid in its appraisal of both Israel's successes and failures. How might you use Israel's story as a guide to examine and evaluate the United States' response to its history? The contemporary church's? Can you suggest a unifying narrative or center that might re-unify our nation?

Resources for further study (mentioned in podcast)

Bill and David frequently mention Richard Rohr. You can find out more information about Father Rohr and his work by clicking here: [Center for Action and Contemplation](#).

Maston, T. B. *Biblical Ethics: A Guide to the Ethical Message of the Scriptures from Genesis Through Revelation*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1982.