

6 THINGS TO DO

WHEN LIFE IS NOT FAIR

By Theresa Boedeker

We want life to be fair.

We expect life to be fair.

We notice the sting of life not being fair.

When we get passed over for a promotion. When our friends get married before us. When the trajectory of our life takes a nosedive. When others have more talents than us. When illness hits. So many things can seem unfair.

We don't live that many years before realizing that the playing field is not fair, that chance and luck are not equal opportunists.

The sooner we realize that life is not fair, and stop expecting it to be fair, the better our attitude will be.

Believing the lie that *'life is supposed to be fair'* can lead to heartache and many other things: unforgiveness, comparison, envy, bitterness, not taking responsibility for our own choices and behaviors, victim mentality, ingratitude, blaming and excuse making, not loving others, hate, pity parties, fear and worry, and discontent.

DON'T FALL FOR THE LIE THAT LIFE SHOULD BE FAIR. FOCUSING ON LIFE BEING NOT FAIR KEEPS US THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE DON'T HAVE, INSTEAD OF APPRECIATING ALL WE DO HAVE. "

Our definition of fairness is skewed. Let's just peek at the life of Christ.

Was it fair that the Lord of Lords was born in a stable? Was it fair that others called Him a lunatic, a troublemaker, and sabbath-breaker?

That his enemies were constantly trying to trip Him up, were envious of Him, despised Him, and misunderstood Him and His purpose?

Do His parables portray perfect fairness? How about the parable of the vineyard where all the workers get the same wage no matter how many hours they work? Or the parable of the prodigal son being welcomed home and a feast thrown for him? Was it fair in the parable of the talents that the same amount was not given to each?

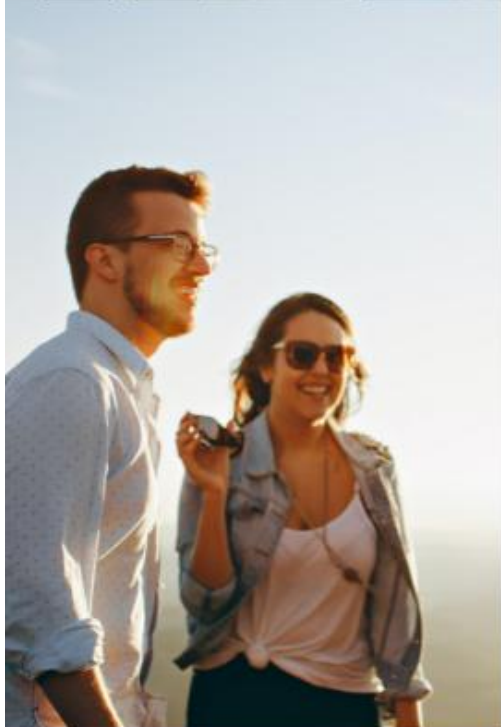
Was it fair that the thief hanging on the cross next to Jesus was welcomed and saved?

Was it fair that Jesus was tortured for deeds He did not do?

Was it fair that He died for sins he did not commit?

Jesus knows all about unfairness. He knows all about living in an unfair world.





Don't fall for the lie that life should be fair.

Focusing on life being not fair keeps us thinking about what we don't have, instead of appreciating all we do have.

HOW TO LIVE IN AN UNFAIR WORLD

We only have one option. To live in an unfair world. So how do we make the best of living in an unfair world?

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT LIFE IS NOT FAIR

Life is not fair according to our standards and never will be. When we release our expectations of life being fair, we can find happiness and be more content with our life.

STOP COMPARING YOURSELF WITH OTHERS

Do your best. Use your talents. Acknowledge where you have come from, what you have accomplished, and stop comparing yourself to others.

REALIZE THAT WE ARE ALL IN DIFFERENT LANES

We all have different talents, backgrounds, hindrances, and connections. When we realize we are not alike and don't need to be, we can appreciate our differences and rejoice with those who have more and help those with less.

UNDERSTAND THAT OUR STANDARDS AND VIEWS OF "FAIR" ARE SKEWED

God looks at fairness much differently than we do. He may give us different talents, but we all have equal access to Him. He lives in all his children. Loves each of us. Died for all. Gives us what we don't deserve. And the same rules and conditions apply to us, no matter our age, height, finger dexterity, or hair color.

BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE

Gratitude and thankfulness help us appreciate the many blessings we already have and help keep us from getting bitter and envious.

TAKE JOY IN KNOWING THAT GOD KNOWS YOU INTIMATELY

He also wants what is best for you. He always gives us more than we deserve.

He loves us while yet sinners, desires the best for us and helps us. He gives us His spirit, peace, grace, and joy. He forgives all our sins. And we deserve none of this.