

## **Just Mercy**

The main focus of the book was on some points which included the injustice based on the race, due to careless and corrupt police system, and the imprisonment is done at the high amount in the United States and the punishment is way crueler than the crime and it needs a person who is a champion in providing the social justice and work hard with his team because this problem cannot be solved on its own (Stevenson, 2019).

I came to understand well with the help of the book Just Mercy that how racial violence is still influencing the current society and it can be seen in the form of huge incarceration in the United States. The U.S. has the highest number of prisoners now in the world. It is due to the ideology of the system which allows the incarceration of every crime and offers the cruelest of the punishment which has made Americans a very harsh nation. The statistics shown in the book are also shocking. According to the book the number of prisoners in America was 300,000 in the 1970s which has increased to 2.3 million prisoners in the current time. 1 out of 15 of the people born back in 2001 are possibly supposed to go to jail and every 1 out of the 3 black children born have a possibility of going to jail. These statistics made me agree with the author's point of view that harsh punishments and mass incarcerations based on racial discrimination are very easy in our society. It is quite an injustice with the vulnerable people among us who suffer more than the actual crime they committed or even punished for a crime that they did not even commit.

Why this mass incarceration based on racial injustice started when it does not have any historical example. According to me, this is due to the schools where the child takes his early education. The school to prison pipeline is a video that depicts clearly how the schools' environment affects the students; behavior for the rest of their lives and how they end up in

prisons especially the blacks. It all started in the 1990s when the biased behavior of teachers with the black students regarding the zero-tolerance of small crimes the students at that time committed and the prevalence of police in the schools where there were more black students. The teachers were strict with the black students and blacks were three times more likely to be suspended or expelled from the school than others. We imprison children on racial discrimination and thousands of teenagers have died in prisons.

Apart from children, many innocent people are also the target of mass incarceration. They have to suffer in prison with the punishments for the crimes they did not commit and they cannot get justice. According to the author, the system is faulty because it presumes the guilt of innocent people based on racial discrimination and as a result, innocent people have to suffer in prison due to such a faulty system.

According to the book “Concerning the point of view of money the amount of money spent on making the more prisons has increased approximately tenfold. The private businesses encourage the government to make strict laws of incarceration so that more people get locked up and the more prisons can be built and hence more money they can make”. Here I again agree with the author that people in the United States have become punitive and they want mass incarceration no matter what.

The author wants people to understand and feel the pain of the innocents who are suffering just based on color. The author describes how it feels to be a person of color in the United States where he has to prove his innocence every time without his fault. The person who is accused at first glance, the person who is hated for no reason, a person who is humiliated

without committing any mistake, the author wants us to feel the mental suffering of such person and show some empathy and should not promote punishments and mass incarcerations. I agree with this point of view of Stevenson that we must first learn humanity and show some care towards others and equal rights should be provided to everyone without any discrimination (Jacob, 1972).

The book has discussed Walter's case where the weak system of the U.S. is shown regarding the judgments in which unjust decisions are made and everyone was fine with that. It tells us to speak up and stand for the justice of poor people. The opposite of the poor is not being rich but is justice. We must work for the justice of innocents. The Americans have become the nation of harsh nature which is the result of radical transformation in America which started back in the late 1900s. Due to that, today America has become the state with the highest number of prisoners who are treated brutally and many of them are even innocent but are assumed as culprits based on typical racism(Berry III, 2015).

We should put ourselves in the position of such people who are treated badly based on racism and have to face the humility and inhumane behaviors. This is not the problem of any individual but ethically and empathetically it is the problem of the whole society. Such problems are so deep-rooted that they will not end by themselves but a proper and strong step must be taken to save the rights of people who are badly treated even when they are not guilty. We must be an empathetic nation, not a nation of punitive nature that encourages imprisonment of innocents.

## **References**

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