



California's
PRISON CRISIS

How should the
Church respond?

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph showing several vertical metal bars of a prison cell. Two hands are visible, one in the foreground and one slightly behind it, both firmly gripping the bars. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is somber and gritty.

California's PRISON CRISIS

Prisons in America

2008: 1 in 100 people in America in jail or prison

Most Recent info says .73% in Prison (not behind bars)

Other statistics suggest 1 in 32 are in prison or under supervision (3.1%)

One thing is clear: the US incarcerates more people than any other country in the world.

- 5% of the world's population
- 25% of the world's prison population

Prisons in America

Four reasons for incarceration:

1. Public Safety
2. Punishment
3. Rehabilitation
4. Deterrence

Prisons in California

Historically, about 70% of those released from prison reoffend.

In early 2011, the US Supreme Court ruled California's prison system unconstitutional, as "cruel and unusual punishment."

Before US Supreme Court ruling, California's prisons were at 211% of capacity

As of April, 150% of capacity (9,000 more than court-ordered cap)

Gov. Brown belligerently appealing, but as things stand now they need to move those 9,000

California's Solution

AB109: The Public Safety Realignment Act

- changes the definition of a felony
- shifts housing for lower level offenders from prison to local jail
transfers supervision of designated parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to Probation.
- Felons who have committed non-violent, non-serious and non-sex offenses (N3) will be housed in local jail.
- Those released from state prison, Post Release Offenders (PRO), will be supervised by Probation.
- Offenders in these two groups will utilize county funded substance abuse, mental health and other services in the community.

The Situation in San Diego County

4,240

Offenders affected by AB 109 are in San Diego County

1,705

are in County Jails (31% of jail population) as of May 21, 2013
(Male population is at 99.7% of capacity)

2,535

are supervised by County Probation as of May 1, 2013

- 15% are under warrant
- Supervision is 42:1 (goal is 40:1)



How should
the Church
respond?

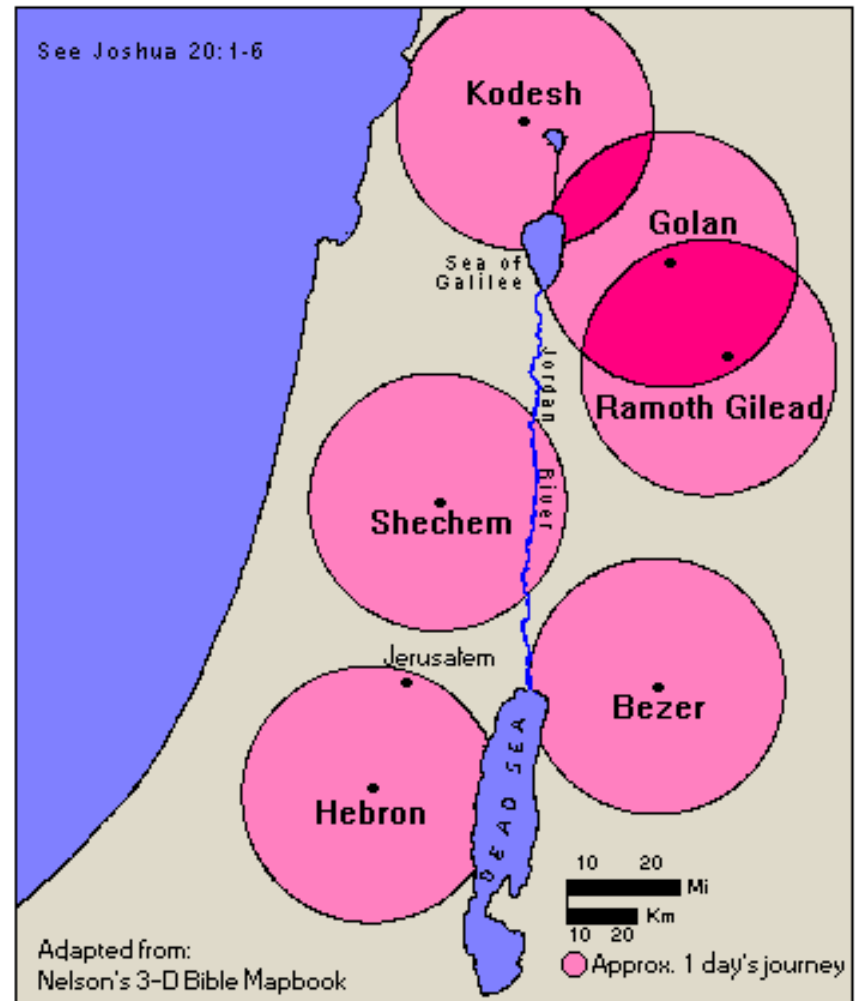
What does the Bible Say?



Joshua 20:1-5

Then the LORD said to Joshua, ² “Say to the people of Israel, ‘Appoint the cities of refuge, of which I spoke to you through Moses, ³ that the manslayer who kills any person without intent or unwittingly may flee there; they shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood. ⁴ He shall flee to one of these cities and shall stand at the entrance of the gate of the city, and explain his case to the elders of that city; then they shall take him into the city, and give him a place, and he shall remain with them. ⁵ And if the avenger of blood pursues him, they shall not give up the slayer into his hand; because he killed his neighbor unwittingly, having had no enmity against him in times past.

Cities of Refuge



Restitution

Leviticus 6:1-5

Revised Standard Version (RSV)

The LORD said to Moses, ² “If any one sins and commits a breach of faith against the LORD by deceiving his neighbor in a matter of deposit or security, or through robbery, or if he has oppressed his neighbor ³ or has found what was lost and lied about it, swearing falsely—in any of all the things which men do and sin therein, ⁴ when one has sinned and become guilty, he shall restore what he took by robbery, or what he got by oppression, or the deposit which was committed to him, or the lost thing which he found, ⁵ or anything about which he has sworn falsely; he shall restore it in full, and shall add a fifth to it, and give it to him to whom it belongs, on the day of his guilt offering.

Restitution

Numbers 5:6-8

Revised Standard Version (RSV)

⁶ “Say to the people of Israel, When a man or woman commits any of the sins that men commit by breaking faith with the LORD, and that person is guilty, ⁷ he shall confess his sin which he has committed; and he shall make full restitution for his wrong, adding a fifth to it, and giving it to him to whom he did the wrong. ⁸ But if the man has no kinsman to whom restitution may be made for the wrong, the restitution for wrong shall go to the LORD for the priest, in addition to the ram of atonement with which atonement is made for him.

Restitution

Luke 19:2-10

Revised Standard Version (RSV)

² And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."



A blurred background image showing a person's hands behind vertical metal bars, likely representing incarceration. The person is wearing a white shirt and a yellow vest. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

**If not in the Bible,
why incarceration?**

For most of history, imprisoning has not been a punishment in itself, but rather a way to confine criminals until a punishment (often corporal or capital punishment) was administered. There were prisons used for detention in Old Testament times, and the Bible details the imprisonment of Joseph in Egypt

The modern prison system was born in London in the 19th Century. The notion of prisoners being incarcerated as part of their punishment and not simply as a holding state until trial or hanging, was at the time revolutionary. This is when prisons had begun to be used as criminal rehabilitation centers.



Eastern State Prison in Philadelphia:

The world's first true "penitentiary," a prison designed to inspire repentance in the hearts of convicts. All prisoners were placed in solitary cells, with light only coming from the ceiling, to keep them "looking to God".



Al Capone was incarcerated here.





How should
the Church
respond?

Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of thy Name. *Amen.*



RESTITUTION
RECONCILIATION
RE-ENTRY



95%

of prison
population will
be released



RE-ENTRY

After 14 years of leading Bible studies, prayer meetings, and mentoring men one-on-one at Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar...

With Re-entry Prison and Jail Ministry in Chula Vista as the non-profit “covering” for funding...



PRO Mentors

A Christian Mentoring Initiative

Starts Inside



A Christian Mentoring Initiative

East Mesa Reentry Facility

- **90-minute, bi-weekly class (Bible Study, Prayer, Discussion)**
- **One-on-one visits**
- **Preparation for release**
- **Pick-up on release**

Continues Outside



A Christian Mentoring Initiative



- **Mentors meet weekly with PROs**
- **Bible study, prayer, accountability**
- **Meet in public place**
- **Continues for at least six months**



Behavior

Values

Beliefs

At EMRF

- **Class began January 28, 2013 with six inmates**
- **9 Meetings so far, with as many as 21 attending**
- **33 different inmates**
- **7 released**
- **5 transferred**



A Christian Mentoring Initiative



A Christian Mentoring Initiative

Mentors

- Orientation held May 4, 2013 at the Episcopal Church Center in Ocean Beach
- Eight men expressed interest, four able to attend
- Three who attended have committed to being mentors, including the Rector at Christ Church, Coronado
- Two unable to attend have committed to being a mentors



PRO
Mentors

A Christian Mentoring Initiative

Ways to get involved:

- **Prayer**
- **Mentor**
- **Keep informed**

Questions?



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