

## In/Justice for Jesus - Micah 6:1-8

We have lived in our house for almost 5 years now, and just this past week my wife put nails in the wall in our bedroom to hang pictures!

Why did it take so long? **Because when you drive the nails, it's a permanent decision!** You better be sure it's the right one before you swing the hammer!

During this season of Lent we have been looking at how the Easter tree was decorated – the curse, the man, the Son of God, & now we add the nails!

**Jesus wasn't just tied to the cross, he was nailed to it!** There was no doubt about the decision being made by those involved – Jesus was made to suffer the fate reserved for the worst of criminals though he Himself was innocent.

**What an injustice that was perpetrated against Jesus Christ!** How could it have come to this? How could this happen? Why didn't someone stop it?

We have seen much in our country recently of people standing up against injustice & protesting the things are just not right! **Where were the calls for justice for Jesus?** Where were the ones standing up for what was right?

The blood of Jesus was on the hands of everyone involved because no one tried to stop this injustice from taking place!

- **The Romans soldiers could have stopped it, but they were doing their job and they drove the nails in anyway.** They were just following orders...
- Pilate could have stopped it because He was the one who had to give the order. But he washed his hands of it, so he couldn't be the one to blame.
- The Jewish Sanhedrin could have stopped it if they simply considered the evidence of Jesus' life. **But they were trying to preserve the "greater good",** can we really blame them for doing what they thought was right?
- And why didn't Jesus Himself stop it? If He were truly God in the flesh He certainly could have! So why didn't He?
- And what about God the Father? In His sovereignty He could have willed a different outcome, but **somehow this was a part of His good plan!**

When dealing with issues of injustice we are always looking for someone or

something to blame, but when it comes to Jesus' death, that someone includes the person in the mirror.

**If it is justice for Jesus we want, then the alternative is we all stand accused!**

This is the message of the gospel, that though the blame falls on all of us & we are all destined to be brought to justice for own sin, Jesus receives injustice in our place in order that we might receive mercy instead!

**Mercy is defined as "not getting what we do deserve"!**

I don't know about you, but I'm glad that I am not the recipient of God's justice, but the recipient of His mercy in Jesus Christ!

Some may claim that there must be injustice in God then! To them I "No!" **God's justice on sin was placed upon Jesus as He was nailed to the cross.**

His justice was preserved at the same time His mercy was extended to us! God is just! **But His perfect justice is never void of His perfect mercy!**

How should we respond to such a reality in our lives? **Micah 6:1-8**

- We must be careful with our accusations & cries for justice, because we would not want to be on the receiving end of those from God! **Vs. 1-2**
- **We must not forget** all that God has done in showing us mercy! **Vs. 3-5**
- **God wants more from us than just religious observances!** **Vs. 6-7a**
- We don't have to give to God what He's already given to us! **Vs. 7b**
- **God wants us to give to others out of what we have received!** **Vs. 8**

**"Do justice"** – Do what is right, pursue the truth, be an advocate for others!

**"Love kindness"** – Always have mercy as the filter through which we respond to one another!

**"Walk humbly with your God"** – May our actions be an extension of our walk with God. **"Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking more of others!"** That is what God has done for us in the cross of Christ!

Justice for Jesus is living rightly in response to what He has done for us!

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