

Sermon Title: GOD IS JUST

Sermon Text: Psalm 7:9-17

We are a people who rejoice when justice is served... When people who do evil get what they deserve... When God vindicates the righteous & destroys the wicked... **But who can truly stand on the righteous side of God's justice?**

God alone is righteous! And He is a righteous judge, who tests the minds & hearts of all mankind! What do you think He finds?

The Psalmist declares here in vs. 11, that God **"feels indignation every day."** Why? **Romans 3:10-12** – **"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."**

Isaiah 53:6 – **"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..."** And God is just, a righteous judge, so He requires justice!

For Him to execute such justice is to give us the just consequences for our actions, which would mean that every single human being would receive immediate death as consequence for our sin!

The Bible is clear, **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23), & **"The wages/consequence of sin is death!"** (Roman 6:23)

The Psalmist's plea was **"My shield is with God, who saves the upright in heart."** But therein lies the dilemma... Righteousness is what is required to be shielded from God's justice & the consequences of sin, & **we just don't measure up!**

God, in His justice, will not/cannot take sin lightly! He won't excuse it, He won't just let it slide, He won't grade us on a curve! **Our sin is accumulating for us a debt we could never repay & wrath we could never endure!** **Hebrews 10:31**

But as we have seen, there are different sides to God & His attributes! God is JUST! So He will execute JUSTice, but at the same time He also provides a JUSTifier who can/does measure up to the demands of His justice!

Romans 6:23 – **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord!** Jesus Christ, the righteous, is our shield!

Isaiah 53:6 – **"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; And the Lord has laid on HIM the iniquity of us all."**

Our shield, from God's justice, truly is in God Himself – in His gift of His righteous Son who is a worthy substitute & sacrifice to satisfy His justice!

But if we are unwilling to accept Jesus alone as our only shield, and if we are unwilling to repent of our sinful ways that require such a shield from God's justice, then the Psalmist's warnings will be realized – **Psalm 7:12-16!**

God's grace is always rooted in Jesus Christ as our only hope! All other forms of justification will fall short, and we will not be shielded from God's wrath!

God's people throughout history unfortunately had a tendency to presume upon God's grace towards them, and it led to a "cheapening" of God's grace!

Cheap grace is when we don't take sin seriously, and acknowledge the great price that needs to be paid for sinners to be in a right standing before God!

Cheap grace is when we think we can live however we want simply b/c of our relationship to God, as His people! **But there's no substitute for repentance!**

May we never presume upon God's grace! For there are many stories in the Bible that serve as reminders for us of our God – who provides a justifier, but who also executes justice! **Both are true of God & need to be held in balance!**

From the fall of man... to Noah... to the Exodus... to the wilderness wanderings... to the fall of Jerusalem... God's justice is clearly seen!

God's people have always had the tendency to forget God, to turn away from Him & go their own way, to put their trust in other things, to live out the desires of their sinful hearts! **But God's justice always put things back into perspective!**

Our Scripture memory verse for this week comes from the book of Jeremiah, named after the prophet whom God sent declaring a message of His justice!

God's people presumed upon God's "unmerited favor" towards them! They never thought that... **But their worst fears were realized because they were unwilling to repent & live in proper relationship with their God who is Just!**

God's people suffered (justly) because of their sin, but even as God executed His justice towards them, He also extended the promise of not only their return to Jerusalem, **but also their eternal "Justifier" – their Messiah!**

Jeremiah 23:5-6 - **"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land... And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'**

What role does Jesus have in your life? **Is He your righteousness?** What role does repentance & faith have? Are they the straps that keep your shield secure?

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