



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: October 25, 2020. **Theme:** Justice and Mercy

Passage: Exodus 33:18-19, Exodus 34:6-7

- THE GLORY OF GOD = THE GOODNESS OF GOD (Exodus 33:18-19)
- THE GOODNESS OF GOD = THE CHARACTER OF GOD (Exodus 34:6-7)
- These verses are repeated at least 20 times throughout the Bible
- God is merciful – he acquits/ pardons the guilty
- Demands justice (his righteous standard must be met)
- God is just – he will by no means acquit/ pardon the guilty
- Demands judgment against all that falls short of his glory
- God's hatred for sin and wrath against are expressions of his justice, which are really expressions of his holiness and his love

JUSTICE > RIGHTEOUSNESS < MERCY

What is justice?

Justice displays God's absolute commitment to all that is right according to his own character, and his opposition to sin and all that is evil. (Jones)

What is mercy?

An eye for distress, a heart of pity, an effort to help, in spite of enmity — that's Mercy sees human suffering, in all of its various manifestations, and is moved by compassion toward those suffering with the intent to do what it can to alleviate misery.

In Christ, God's righteousness is fulfilled and given, justice is served, and mercy poured out on the undeserving.

Application:

God's justice ought to leave us sobermindedly humble, when we recognize how far we fall short of measuring up to his righteousness and what we deserve were justice to be served.

God's mercy ought to leave us joyfully humble, when we recognize what God has done to satisfy his justice in Christ in order to make us righteous.

God is intent on conforming us into Christ's image, making us whole and healing us from our dividedness.

Point:

Only the gospel can bring true peace, which is our ultimate aim as the church - to proclaim Christ's life, death, and resurrection and to call those far from God to faith. But we do so as servants of mercy, marked with a deep humility because of what we have been spared from and what we have been given.

QUESTIONS:

- 1.How does God's commitment to justice reveal his glory? How can believers respond to individuals who question God's goodness regarding his judgment on sinners?
- 2.How does Exodus 34:6-7 reveal God's heart regarding Mercy?
- 3.Are you prone to perceive God as leading out primarily with his just judgments, or his gracious mercy to sinners?
- 4.How does the gospel provide clarity regarding justice and mercy in a culture that is prone to confusion over these matters?
- 5.What are the implications of God's justice and mercy for his church (all believers) as we live out our faith in the world?
- 6.Does your life give evidence that you love justice? Does your life give evidence that you love Mercy? Are there any areas that need to be confessed and repented of?

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