

**JOB SERIES FOURTEEN
JUSTICE AND MERCY
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**JOB 42:7-10; PSALM 11:7; MICAH 7:18-19; JEREMIAH 5:12-13, 30-31; 6:13-15; 8:11; 23:9-40; ROMANS 3:22-28
(SERMON 1597)**

Explain Job series.
READ JOB 42:7-10.

There is something wonderfully satisfying about justice. Justice takes two forms.

There's something wonderfully satisfying knowing that individuals that have been ignored or mistreated, martyred for their faith, that they won't be forgotten. Justice will roll down. They'll be rewarded. God will not forget.

■ **SLIDE #1:** Psalm 11:7: For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.

Justice has a flip side. Those who do wrong will suffer the consequences of the wrong. Something inside us just feels good when the bad get justice.

■ **SLIDE #2:** Isaiah 5:16: But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness.

God is in the justice business—and we like that.

■ **SLIDE #3:** Washington sniper – Lee Boyd Malvo and John Allen Muhammod—mass murders. Shot out of trunk of car – cowards. We are incensed. Then they were brought to justice and ideally will be put to death because they have forfeited their inalienable right to live.

With 70% of the world's lawyers in the United States, you would think that justice would always prevail. But, such is not the case.

■ **SLIDE #4:** A burglar fell through a skylight while robbing a school. His attorneys charged the school with negligence and won \$260,000 in damages for the robber.

■ **SLIDE #5:** A man in Massachusetts stole a car from a parking lot, and then died in a traffic accident. His estate sued the parking lot arguing that if they had provided proper security he would never have been able to steal the car and would never have had the car accident.

■ **SLIDE #6:** In San Francisco a taxi driver came to the rescue of a woman in the act of being mugged and corralled the attacker by pinning him to a wall with his taxi. The thief ended up with a broken leg. He sued and a jury ordered the taxi driver to pay \$24,595 in damages to the mugger for using excessive force.

■ **SLIDE #7:** One lady claimed she lost her psychic powers after being injected with dye during a cat scan. She was awarded nearly a million dollars in damages for future lost wages.

I wonder why she didn't use her psychic powers to foresee her problems and avoid the scan altogether?

■ **SLIDE #8:** Studies of judicial sentencing reveal that prettier women receive lighter sentences than their less attractive counterparts. That is not fair.

We laugh at a few abuses; but truly, there are not many. Our Justice system does a good job of meeting out justice. We need justice. Our society would be chaos without it.

Character witness:

Lowell Johnson

Four time rapist and his lawyer

SLIDE #9: We all want justice done until it comes to us...and then we want ...

SLIDE #10: Mercy.

God is also a God of mercy.

SLIDE #11: Micah 7:18-19: Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

In the story of Job, Justice finally rolls down.

SLIDE #12: "This man who deserved none of the loss, pains, and suffering will get it all back.

SLIDE #13: "And those who made his life so miserable will get their just due.

Today see where Justice and Mercy meet.

SLIDE #14: Micah 6:8: He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Context: In the opening verses of Job 42:1-6. Job is broken in repentance before God. When the Lord heard Job's heart and saw the openness and teachableness and humility of Job, mercy kicked in and grace flowed down.

Ricky's Cop story: My new son-in-law was stopped by a police officer over on La Cholla the other night. "Do you know why I pulled you over?" "Going 60 in a 45." Surprised: "No, but thanks for your honesty. Think again." "Ahh, I must have run that stop sign at Lambert. I don't even remember seeing it. It has been a hard day. Go to UofA at 5:30 to practice. Didn't get home until late, Ran up to church for rehearsal. I am just tired and that stop sign did not even register on my mind."

"Thanks for being honest. I am not going to give you a ticket. Just a warning. Now go on home—carefully—and get some rest."

He was guilty. But humble confession and truth, often lead to the pouring out of mercy.

READ JOB 42:7a: After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends..."—stop there.

All the time that Eliphaz and God have been dealing with Job, the three comforters were standing in the background frowning with their arms folded, wondering why the lightning isn't striking Job and the Lord isn't vindicating them for what they said. Boy, are they in for a surprise. The Lord then turns his attention to these three friends.

SLIDE #15: God was angry at the three friends. It is time to tremble.

Reminds me about the story of the Xns lady who wanted a parrot that could talk.

SLIDE #16: She wanted the one at the pet shop even when the owner told her that the parrot had been previously owned by a sea captain and when angry the parrot could curse like a sailor. She said she'd buy him any way and teach him good words.

All went well for a month or so until one morning she forgot to feed him when she left for work.

When she came home, he was cursing. She grabbed him up: "I'll teach you not to talk that way," and put him in the deep freezer.

"Have you learned your lesson?" "Yes, I'll never talk like that again."

Seven months went by and not a bit of bad language. One day she forgot to feed him, water him and change his cage. When she returned home he was cursing words she'd never heard before. She grabbed him up, put him in the freezer and promptly forgot about him.

He was almost frozen to death when she remembered him and put him in his cage to thaw out. He shivered for quite a while before she asked him, "Well, did you learn your lesson this time?"

"Yes ma'am—never again."

He sat quietly for quite a while before asking: "May I ask you a question?" "Yes." "I know I did wrong. I know I should never have said all those bad words. But I want to know,

SLIDE #17: "In the freezer there, that turkey, what did he do?"

God is angry. He has dealt with the parrot. He is now turning to the turkeys.

I love it that the Lord says, "You made me angry. Your words were wrong words. Your actions were wrong actions and I have a wrath that is kindled over what you've been doing."

I love it because I was raised in a world that taught, "Christians should never be angry. If you are angry you are sinning and you need to confess your sin." It's more complicated than that! If the Lord can be angry, there is a place for anger.

SLIDE #18: Jesus cleaned out the Temple. Whip! Not, "Now, gentlemen, I'm a little uneasy about what I'm seeing here. When you have time would you clean up the mess?"

No. He drove them out of the Temple! Sleeves rolled up, swinging whip! He's never done a sin in His life. This is righteous indignation. Something is wrong if you don't get angry over this!

Not a temper tantrum. Not sudden over-reaction. This has been a long time coming. He's finally reached the end of His tether. "My wrath is kindled."

Oh, by the way, we will see Him like this again.

Jesus in Revelation with sword, etc.

SLIDE #19: Judgment Seat of Christ.

I was raised in an age that said, "You should never discipline your children when you are angry."

I think sometimes our children need to see a standard of righteousness – righteousness that when it's crossed, you pay for it. You stepped into wrong – and you remember it.

This is the greatest of all fathers who is angry with these three men.

Before you tell folks, I am a child abuser, I stand against abuse – out of control rage – I'm talking about a justifiable anger that comes from the heart of one who is holy – in God's case.

STORY: 1st grade taking dime. Where did you get it? I lied. "I will not raise a liar!" confessed in front of class on Tuesday.

READ JOB 42:7: After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

Here's the reason He was angry: "You haven't spoken of me what is right as my servant Job has." What does this mean? "Not spoken of me what is right?"

Remember what the three friends argued.

SLIDE #20: Eliphaz: "God sent you suffering because you sinned."

SLIDE #21: Bildad: "You won't admit you sinned, so God is sending more suffering."

SLIDE #22: Zophar: "Your sin is so bad you even deserve more suffering than this."

SLIDE #23: In their effort to uphold God's justice they misrepresented the real God. They limited His sovereignty. They misinterpreted His actions. They limited the Almighty God and boxed God in to a little container they could comprehend.

God cares very much that He is presented in an accurate manner.

Cults feed on this – half-verses, twisted.

Legalists feed on this – Use Word of God to manipulate, shame, and condemn. Not a fair representation of the living God.

SLIDE #24: Jaystar introducing a new type of toy to help kids through these frightening, stressful, and confusing times. The God Squad and Friends—a divine collection of dolls and animals that are inspirational models, including, Jesus, Moses, Buddha, Prince Siddhartha—soon to come Gandhi, Joan of Arc, Archangel Michael, Einstein, Churchill, Lincoln.

Each figure is portrayed like a child and has a modern day theme. For instance, "Jesus Comes 2 Play" sings, "You are my sunshine," prays and wears a head band that represents the Trinity. "Moses Comes 2 Rock," sports two stone tablets symbolic of the 10 commandments plus a modern day hockey stick and music.

SLIDE #25: Look at this picture. There is something inherently wrong about a god you can hold in your hand—and play with as you please. May God have mercy on Jaystar.

It is dangerous to misrepresent the real God.

READ JEREMIAH 5:12-13, 30-31; 6:13-15; 8:11; and 23:9-40.

Friend part of liberal years growing up.

SLIDE #26: "I realized that they would have lived me right into Hell." That's chilling. "I heard all about the love of God. I never heard of the justice, righteousness, and holiness of God. 'Whatever' is okay. God's full of love."

That's presenting God in the wrong light.

STORY: Frontier town, horse harnessed to a wagon bolted carrying a little boy inside to almost certain death. Young cowboy saw the child in danger and risked his life to catch the reins beneath the horse and stop the wagon.

The rescued child grew up to be a lawless man who one day stood before judge convicted of murder and awaiting sentencing. The prisoner recognized the judge as the man who, years before, had saved his life. On that basis he pleaded for mercy.

"Young man, then I was your savior, today I am your judge. I sentence you to be hanged."

Now is the day for mercy. Settle your case now. If you die and come to trial, you will face a God who is your judge. I wouldn't lie to you and say all is well when it is not.

READ JOB 42:8: So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

There's justice rolling down—you misrepresented me and I am angry. But there's also mercy flowing all over the place—I have a plan to fix this.

■ SLIDE #27: Take 7 bulls and rams.

■ SLIDE #28: This is unusual. It is Old Testament teaching. In the Old Testament forgiveness and relief from guilt and wrongdoing occurred by bringing an animal to sacrifice before the Lord. Cut throat of animal and blood was spilled and the carcass laid on altar blazing with fire and consumed and smoke would come before God as a sweet-smelling aroma. It's all very strange to us. We didn't live in that era. But in those days that's how God's anger was appeased – satisfied.

■ SLIDE #29: "My servant Job will pray for you."
"I will accept him" = in Hebrew – "I will lift his face up." Means – "I will accept his intercession on your behalf... that I won't give you what you deserve."
In fact the Lord decides to use Job in restoring these friends who have gotten so far off track. We'll be amazed how the Lord will use us in others' lives when we adjust our ways to His ways. We'll be a refuge, a source of strength, a place of hope, a reason to go on, and a calming presence. You'll be this and so much more to those who lack these things by His grace.

■ SLIDE #30: READ JOB 42:9: So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job's prayer.

■ SLIDE #31: What a grand scene – Do you know what's happening? Sins are being washed away. There's justice and there's mercy.

■ SLIDE #32: This is a picture story of the cross! God's justice against sin is satisfied in the death of the Lamb. And His mercy is revealed in those who trust in the Lamb.

READ ROMANS 3:22-23: This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Someone had to die for our sins. That is Justice.

■ SLIDE #33: 2 Corinthians 5:21: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
From Rome to Hiroshima; crusades to Vietnam.... All sins....

"My God why have you forsaken me?" Only place in bible Jesus does not refer to God as His Father.

STORY of Bob Morgan and "Life flashed before my eyes."

On the other hand, Jesus Christ died in our place. Here is the mercy:

SLIDE #34: Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

SLIDE #35: John 1:12: Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--

Justice rolled down and when it did mercy washed over them and got them all back on their feet.

SLIDE #36: Verses of At Calvary: William Newell, "Years I spent in vanity and pride...caring not my Lord was crucified, knowing not it was for me He died—at Calvary.

SLIDE #37: Mercy there was great and grace was free. Pardoned there was multiplied to me...There my burdened soul found liberty—at Calvary."

SLIDE #38: When the Confederate Army was finally defeated, Abraham Lincoln was asked how he would treat the rebellious Southerners. The question hinted that the asked wanted them to be severely punished.

SLIDE #39: The merciful president replied: "I will treat them as if they had never been away." No wonder when he was assassinated, one of his enemies said in utter admiration, "Now he belongs to the ages."

SLIDE #40: To seek to earn salvation is to insult the Giver. Imagine invited to a banquet at White House. Seated at table with choicest foods. Lovely visit. At end of evening president stands at the front door and bids you good bye.

What do you do? You know what to do. You press a dime in his hand and say, "Thank you very much for your kindness. I have enjoyed the evening very much. I realize this cost you a lot of money and I want to help you pay for the meal."

Is that good? No. On the contrary, it is a rude and insulting gesture. So it is with God's mercy.

TRUTHS EMERGE FROM THIS STUDY:

SLIDE #41: LESSON: Forgiveness is worth asking for. Something between you and God, what are you waiting for? He loves to hear the cries of His children He loves to hear the humble confession of a saint. He'll never turn you away.

SLIDE #42: LESSON: Justice is worth waiting for. It will come. If not now, later. If not later, in eternity. God will make it right.

SLIDE #43: LESSON: There is no mercy without justice. Otherwise there is no need for mercy.

SLIDE #44: LESSON: We are never more like God than when we are extending mercy.

Employee steals from company. World collapsed. True? Yes. If I keep you, can I trust you? Yes, I learned my lesson. Won't press charges. You are the second man in the company who has succumbed to temptation and was shown mercy: I was the first.

SLIDE #45: LESSON: Now is the time to bring the offering of your life to God at the cross of Christ. You were in His sights when He said, "Father, forgive them, they don't know what they're doing." Mercy now; settle now, you don't want Justice later.

Let's pray: Father, thank you for comfort in the cross, sacrifice made, penalty paid, once for all. Now open invitation to live like your Son modeled for us.

Don't have time for this in this sermon. Maybe next time.

READ JOB 42:10: After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.

Was this fair?

Now Job restored twofold.

So – boils blown away. Gets health and home and finally gets family back (not twice as many kids...)

Book ends—Not really fair. We struggle with fairness. Should never have happened.

SLIDE #: Up on accepting an award, the late Jack Benny once remarked:

SLIDE #: "I really don't deserve this. But, I have arthritis, and I don't deserve that either.

SLIDE #: Wrong view: There is a law of fairness or justice that is higher and more absolute than God. It is binding even for God. God must act according to this law in order to be fair. We appeal to this law for fairness.

SLIDE #: Correct view: God Himself is the standard of justice. He always acts according to His own moral perfection. Thus whatever He does is fair, even if we don't understand it. We appeal directly to God.

SLIDE #: LESSON: God is not under the law of fairness. But He is always just.