

**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)**

Let's read our text from Job 42:7-10.

There Is Something Wonderfully Satisfying About Justice—And Mercy.

It is satisfying to know 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. Read 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. We find satisfying relief when wrong is punished. It is good when the bad get justice. God is in the justice business. Read Isaiah 5:16: "But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by his justice, and the holy God will show himself holy by his righteousness."

We all want justice done until it comes to us...and then we want ...mercy.

Fortunately, God is also a God of mercy. Read 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—and mercy overflows. Today we see where justice and mercy meet. Read 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."

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."

Let's talk about God and anger.

If the Lord can be angry, there is a place for anger.

Something is wrong if we don't get angry over some things!

Did you ever consider that the picture of Jesus driving the money changers out of the temple is a pale shadowing of what Christ will look like when he comes in judgment in Revelation 1 or sits on the Great White Throne in Revelation 20? He will one day deal in justice with those who refused mercy.

Let's talk about why God was angry.

God was angry because the three friends misrepresented the true nature of God. In their effort to uphold God's justice they limited His sovereignty. They boxed God in.

God has much to say to and about people who falsely misrepresent the real God. Read Jeremiah 5:12-13' 30-31; 6:13-15; 8:11; and 23:9-40.

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."

We'll be amazed how the Lord will use us in others' lives when we adjust our ways to His ways.

This is unusual teaching because it is Old Testament teaching. It's all strange to us. We didn't live in that era. But in those days this was how God's anger was appeased. An offering was placed on the altar and it was burned and consumed. God mixed justice fulfilled with mercy offered to forgive and restore the ones who had done wrong against God.

"My servant Job will pray for you" is an intriguing concept. "I will accept him" in Hebrew is, "I will lift his face up." This means, "I will accept his intercession on your behalf... then, I won't give you what you deserve."

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.

What a grand scene! Do you know what's happening? *Sins are being washed away.* That's the greatest moment. There was justice and there was mercy.

This entire experience represents the cross! This is why the death of Christ is effective—because 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.

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

Jesus Christ died in our place. Here is the mercy. Read Romans 5:8: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Read Romans 3:22-28.

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.

SEVERAL TRUTHS EMERGE FROM THIS STUDY:

Forgiveness Is Worth Asking For.

Justice Is Worth Waiting For.

There Is No Mercy Without Justice. Otherwise There Is No Need For Mercy.

We Are Most Like God Than When We Are Extending Mercy.