

# A GOD OF JUSTICE

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JESUS FIGHTS FOR  
THE WEAK



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Some of you suffer from a debilitating condition that we are forced to cope with on almost a daily basis: road rage.

We are forced to share the road with people that drive too slow, tail-gaiters, BMW drivers that don't know blinkers come standard in their cars, old people that have had their blinkers on for three miles, and the other 90% of drivers that forget all common sense the minute that rain starts to fall. Through all of this, we yearn for justice!

**Justice is a term that is talked about little in the scope of our theology.**

- We talk about truth
- We talk about love
- We talk about mercy
- We talk about grace
- We talk about redemption

Justice feels like an afterthought, and I believe that is not by coincidence. I also believe that justice has been overlooked for generations because of our view and the implications of that word. The sheer lack of justice in this world is jading, and we are left scratching our heads at the ratio of injustices that we see every single day.

We have watched the injustice of the Ukrainian people splayed across every platform we can imagine during the war with Russia in 2022. Death, destruction, and gruesome mistreatment by the Russian elites. They cry for justice as weeks pass and missiles continue to bombard their homes.

As Christians, we often talk about the mercy of God. We are thankful for that mercy. And though God is merciful, He is also just. He will not punish the righteous, but He will hold the wicked accountable for their wrongdoings.

*Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners: The Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous: The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.*

*Psalm 146:7-9*



His justice goes far beyond judging right and wrong, though. He also seeks to defend those who are oppressed and bless those who are in need. When we say that God is just, we are also saying that He does not overlook those who are in need of His help. As God's people, we are called to be just as well. We should not ignore the real needs of people that He has placed in our lives.

## Doing right by others sometimes means sacrificing on their behalf.

There was a time in Jesus' ministry where it seemed like He lost His temper over something silly. He walked up to the temple and saw people buying and selling. Seeing this seemingly caused Him to snap.

*And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.*

*Mark 11:15-16*

What do you think was going on here?

- Jesus was fed up with the way the church was being run
- Jesus had to blow off some steam through his frustration
- Jesus was sticking it to the Pharisees and Sadducees

Many churches today have a coffee shop or a bookstore in them. Does that make Jesus angry, too? What about churches that have bake sales to raise money for their building fund or Bible Quizzing ministries? Would they draw Jesus' wrath? What about churches that sell merchandise with the church's logo or mission statement? Are they wrong for doing so?

*And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

*Mark 11:17*



**If we look more deeply at the historical context of the temple and what was required of people that came to the temple to sacrifice and pray, we discover the purity of the motives of Jesus.**

- Sacrifices at this time were literal sacrifices, meaning that if you did not possess a dove or goat for an offering, you needed to buy one. For a long time, these animals had been sold at little cost to visitors to the temple, but these corrupt religious leaders saw the potential for profit. Potentially even requiring temple visitors to purchase their sacrifices “at the door” to gain entrance.

- Likely, these merchants were set up like any other bustling market of its time; crowding the halls of the temple and courtyard so severely that it prevented people from making their pilgrimage. With longer wait times and less space to gather and pray, men and women alike were prevented from entering the temple in a timely manner, if they were allowed access at all.

- In every instance, what we find at the heart of this scene is religious leaders, collectors, and merchants doing their very best to restrict people’s access to worship their God. In Jesus book, there could be no greater sin against your fellow man.

Jesus fights for His people and His church. When you are oppressed or wounded or prevented from reaching the mercy seat of His temple, you can rest assured that He will step in and cast off all your oppressors.

