

Bible teaching on Justice and Mercy

1 – JUSTICE AND MERCY – THE WORDS

1. JUSTICE

- Hebrew 'MISHPAT' right judgement
- Greek 'DIKE'; 'right'
- Greek 'EKDIKESIS' ; 'to make something right or just'
- Greek 'DIKAIOSUNE'; the state of being right or just, or 'righteousness'.

2. MERCY

- Hebrew 'RAHAM'; to have pity or to show great care
- Greek 'ELEOS'; to do something to alleviate suffering or 'mercy'

2 – GENESIS 18:19 – A REVELATION OF GOD

God reveals Himself to Abraham as a God of justice and mercy, because God will not go back on His Covenant with Noah.

All receive justice, but the wicked will be judged whereas those who have stayed pure will be saved.

3 – LEVITICUS 19:15-18 – THE MORAL NATURE OF JUSTICE

God's Moral code in Leviticus 19 is based on general principles of social justice, applied in particular social contexts.

This moral code is based on God's own character of love

4 – HOSEA 2:18-20 – GOD ACTS IN MERCY TO SHOW JUSTICE

The story of Hosea and his wife Gomer is one in which Hosea receives no justice in his marriage, but he persists in showing mercy

The actions of Hosea are prophetic, showing the characteristics of God's love.

5 – MICAH 6:8 – GOD TELLS US TO LIVE BY JUSTICE AND MERCY

The prophet Micah speaks to God's people who have become used to living with injustice

Here, the word for 'mercy' is the Hebrew 'cheseth' which means the Covenant love of God.

6 – MATTHEW 23:23 – JESUS REVEALS THE TRUTH OF HIS FEELINGS

Jesus is in the middle of a heartrending speech against the Pharisees when He tells them what they should have done to stay in touch with God!

In so doing, Jesus tells us how we should keep in touch with God and our faith

7 – 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-14 – OUR LIFE IS TO BE LIVED IN JUSTICE AND MERCY

Mercy is granted to Paul because although he was a sinner, he was prepared to turn from this and receive God's mercy

Justice is fulfilled when, as sinners, we say 'Yes' to God's offer of love.

8 – JAMES 2:12-13, 3:17 – JAMES SEES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUSTICE AND MERCY

It is interesting that James (Jesus' brother) is the one who sees most clearly the way that Justice and mercy works.

Note the James see's mercy as the heart of the issue. God is merciful.

REFERENCES

Genesis 18:19 ¹⁹ No, for I have chosen¹ him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to **keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice**; so that the LORD may bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

Leviticus 19:15-18 ¹⁵ **You shall not render an unjust judgment**; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer¹ among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood² of your neighbor: I am the LORD. ¹⁷ You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**

Numbers 7:89 - 8:1 ⁸⁹ When Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD,¹ he would hear the voice speaking to him from above the **mercy seat² that was on the ark of the covenant³** from between the two cherubim; thus it spoke to him.

1 Chronicles 21:13 ¹³ Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress; **let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is very great**; but let me not fall into human hands."

Psalms 103:2-6 ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits -- ³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the Pit, **who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy**, ⁵ who satisfies you with good as long as you live¹ so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶ **The LORD works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Psalms 119:156 ¹⁵⁶ **Great is your mercy, O LORD; give me life according to your justice.**

Isaiah 30:18-19 ¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you; therefore **he will rise up to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice**; blessed are all those who wait for him. ¹⁹ Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you.

Hosea 2:18-20 ¹⁸ I will make for you¹ a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish² the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹ And I will take you for my wife forever; **I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy.** ²⁰ I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

Micah 6:8 ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to **do justice, and to love kindness (mercy), and to walk humbly with your God?**

Habakkuk 3:2 ² O LORD, I have heard of your renown, and I stand in awe, O LORD, of your work. In our own time revive it; in our own time make it known; **in wrath may you remember mercy.**

Zechariah 7:8-10 ⁸ The word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying: ⁹ Thus says the LORD of hosts: **Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another**; ¹⁰ do not oppress the widow, the orphan, the alien, or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.

Matthew 9:13 ¹³ Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'¹ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Matthew 23:23 ²³ "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the **weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith**. It is these you ought to have practiced without neglecting the others.

Romans 11:30-33 ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now¹ receive mercy. ³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience **so that he may be merciful to all.** ³³ **O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!**

1 Timothy 1:12-14 ¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because **he judged me faithful** and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. **But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,** ¹⁴ **and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me** with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

James 2:12-13 ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³ **For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.**

James 3:17 ¹⁷ **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy** and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.