**JUST GOD**

Sunday School Lesson 10

*The Attributes of God*

Isaiah 45:21

8/1/2021

**Introduction:** For our tenth lesson on the attributes of God, we are going to look at His justice. The word *just* is used 178 times in the Word of God. Its definition is very robust based on its usage in the Bible. In one sense, just is used as a close synonym to righteous. The Bible refers to the just man in several places, and it is always using it in this light. The first definition of just is to be orderly, suitable, proper, and right. Just is also used as a synonym for honesty. The second definition of just is upright and honest; having principles of rectitude and equity. We can further define justice as accuracy; exactness; impartial; providing fair judgments; innocent; blameless; conforming to exactness of the law. It seems that the best way to consider the justice of God is to view it as purity, equity, and honesty in all of His dealings. He is always just in everything that He does. In a world where people are constantly seeking out all of the injustices, let us new forget that God is incapable of ever being unjust. Even Pilate had to admit that the Lord Jesus Christ was a just man. To date, we have looked at the self-existence, immutability, omnipresence, omnipotence, self-sufficiency, jealousy, omniscience, mercy, and love of God. You can see God’s justice in several of these such as His jealousy, mercy, and even His love. Let’s take some time during the lesson this morning to consider the full depth of the justice of the Lord.

1. **THE LORD DELIGHTS WHEN JUSTICE IS DONE ON THIS EARTH.**
2. **Notice that a just weight is the delight of the Lord, and it is His doing (Proverbs 11:1, 16:11; Deuteronomy 25:15; Leviticus 19:36).** The Bible tells us that a just weight is His delight. Proverbs 16:11 goes further to show that He does not just delight in a just weight, He is responsible for it. It says that a just weight and balance are the Lord’s. All the weights of the bag are his work. The point of this proverb is that all just works are not just done with the Lord’s approval. They are done as a result of the Lord. He is in all justice. Man is not just. There is no man that is as just as God (Job 4:17), save Jesus Christ Himself. Consequently, all proper justice is a result of the Lord’s doing. Justice belongs to Him. We must understand that the Lord loves justice because He is justice. The just weight refers to fairness in dealings between mankind. The Lord is not only just in dealing with us, but He wants there to be justice in our dealings with each other. If we want the Lord to be pleased in our daily interactions with others, then we should purpose to be just in the things that we do. Since justice comes from Him, that also means that we must seek His help in ensuring that we are being just in our dealings.
3. **Notice that a false balance is an abomination to the Lord (Proverbs 11:1, 20:23).** As much as God loves a just weight, He also hates a false balance. That’s speaking of those who would intentionally deal deceitfully with others for their own benefits. We live in a world where most people have no problem lying for their own personal gain. They see it as a reasonable and justifiable means to an end. That’s not the way that the Lord sees it, though. It is an abomination to Him. That is a very strong word that is used only sparingly in the Word of God. That should show us just how much He hates this type of behavior. While the world is filled with false balances, the person who loves the Lord will determine to avoid dealing with others in such a way. A false balance is a result of greed, pride, and selfishness. When we are willing to mistreat others for our own personal benefit, we are revealing that we view ourselves as more important than them. It shows a lack of the love of God and a strong love of self instead. Greed, of course, will lead people to behave deceitfully. This is why the Bible speaks against a love of money.
4. **THE LORD IS ALWAYS ACTIVE IN HIS JUSTICE. IT NEVER CEASES.**
5. **Notice that the Lord brings His judgment to light every morning (Zephaniah 3:5).** There is not a day that goes by on this earth that the Lord fails to execute His just judgments. We often think about the final judgment of the Lord on the earth and the people therein, but let us not forget that His justice is actively working even now. While it is true that He has saved some elements of His judgment for that final hour, His judgment is too much a part of Him for Him to contain it fully until that hour. The result is that there are people every day who are dealing with the Lord’s principle of sowing and reaping. That’s His justice in action. Of course, there are also secret things that the justice of the Lord reveals on this earth to ensure that proper judgment is carried out. Consider those who have had to give an answer for things that they thought would stay hidden. While some man may have helped to uncover these things, we know that the Lord is in it. Justice is His. Thus, we ought to rejoice when we see true justice being accomplished in this world, and we ought to recognize that it is the hand of the Lord that has brought that justice to the forefront.
6. **Notice that the justice of the Lord is seen through Jesus Christ and His reign (John 5:30; Acts 3:14, 7:52; Zechariah 9:9; Jeremiah 23:5; Genesis 18:19).** When we think of the kingdom of God, are we only to consider the future millennial reign of Christ? No, we are to consider the kingdom of the Lord even now in this present hour. The Lord came and showed us justice during His earthly ministry. Everything that the Lord did was just because He was doing not His own will but the will of the Father. Those on this earth who are doing things for their own purposes cannot really know true justice from God. As believers, though, the Lord has taught us how to be just in this present day that we live in. This is why we have the New Testament. The Bible wants to show us how we ought to walk in this world. The justice of the pharisees was not real justice. The justice in this world is not real justice. Real justice can be executed by the believers of the Lord. That’s because we know the Just One. He has shown us what true justice is. Look at such examples as His interaction with the woman who the people wanted to stone. The way of the Lord is to do justice and judgment.
7. **THE LORD IS ALWAYS ABUNDANT IN HIS JUSTICE. IT NEVER RUNS OUT.**
8. **Notice that the Lord is plenteous in His justice (Job 37:23).** Job recognized that the attributes of the Lord are so big that it’s hard for mankind to even fathom. In Job 37, he spoke not only of the excellent power of the Lord, but he also spoke to the fact that the Lord is plenteous in His justice. There is no end to the justice of the Lord. He can never run out of His justice. As we already noted, we know that His justice is active. No matter how active His justice is, there is always more that He is able to give out. He is infinite in justice just as He is infinite in His love, power, presence, and knowledge. The only thing that will ever stop the justice of God from being seen will be the completion of His judgment upon Satan, the fallen angels, and fallen man. At that point, there will be nothing left for the Lord to execute His justice upon. Even still, His justice will still be present and available. While we do not currently get to see the full measure of the Lord’s justice in this world, may we always remember that He is not lacking in justice at all. He will distribute it out, and all will be made right.
9. **Notice that it is joy for the Lord to do judgment because He is just (Proverbs 21:15).** We already observed that the Lord delights in justice that is performed here on this earth. That was mostly speaking of justice that man executes between each other as a result of the Lord’s hand. This is speaking more personally to His own full execution of His justice. The Bible tells us that it is joy to the just to do judgment. Since the Lord is the most just, that tells us that it is great joy for Him when He carries out His judgment. Every decision that He makes is made from a position of joy because He knows that His decisions are right and just. The unjust person knows that they are working crookedly; thus, they cannot truly take joy in their decision making. Even when the Lord’s justice will require souls to be cast in Hell, the Lord will still have His joy because He knows that the actions that He is taking are coming from a place of perfect justice. He knows that He has shown fairness to mankind, and truthfully, He has given us more opportunities than we deserve. An unjust person may stop performing judgments because his conscience can no longer handle it. God’s justice is unlimited because He has joy in it.
10. **THE LORD DEEMS JUSTICE TO BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM THAN SACRIFICE.**
11. **Notice that doing justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice (Proverbs 21:3).** We sing songs and teach lessons about how obedience is better than sacrifice. Yet, we rarely talk about the fact that God also values justice more than sacrifice. When we behave ourselves justly, it shows a closeness with the Lord and a desire to deal with things as He would. To be just in our dealings, we must stop and consider how the Lord would want us to handle any situation. We also know that the just shall live by faith. This means that those who show true Godly justice are doing so as a result of the faith that they live by. I trust in the Lord to help me to make right decisions and to do right by others. This is hard because we often do not have all of the facts. We are forced to make decisions with conflicting information, and we desperately need the Holy Spirit’s help to guide us in the way of Godly justice. For that reason, a person who does justice is highly regarded before the Lord.
12. **Notice that the Lord commands us to keep judgment and do justice (Isaiah 56:1).** Many people like to quote the New Testament regarding a need to not judge. Yet, so few understand the context of that passage is dealing with passing final judgment on someone. No one has the authority to cast such judgment on another person, as that judgment is reserved for the Lord. In reality, we make judgments every day. We have to assess our daily situations and make decisions that are best for our families. As parents, we have to judge in situations in the home. Sometimes, that involves trying to decide which child is telling you the truth. Life is filled with judgments. What the Lord wants is for us to keep His judgments at the forefront of our lives and allow them to be the guiding light in our own judgments. If we do this, then we will be able to practice proper justice before the Lord.