

Justice

Leviticus 24:10-23

Read Leviticus 24:10-23

"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." —Cornell West

Big Idea: Justice is Impartial, Measured, and Merciless

Defining Justice: To Put Things Right

1.) The Case of the Blasphemer (v. 10-23)

A.) The Man is not an Israelite

verse 10, "Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian..."

verse 10, "...and this Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp."

B.) The Man Has Broken God's Law

Verse 11, "¶ And the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed..."

"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

Exodus 22:28, "28 "You shall not revile God, nor curse a ruler of your people."

C.) Israel is Unsure What to Do With the Man.

Read verse 14.

Read verse 23.

D.) The Man is Sentenced to Death.

2.) Justice is Impartial (v. 15-16, 22)

Read Leviticus 19:15

A.) God Does Not Show Partiality

2 Chronicles 19:6-7

Psalm 67:4, "...For You shall judge the people righteously..."

Psalm 96:10

Psalm 98:8-9

verse 15, "...Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin."

Read verse 16.

Read verse 22.

3.) Justice is Measured (v. 17-21)

Read verses 17-21

A.) Principle of *lex talionis* (Law of Retribution)

B.) Lamech Principle (Genesis 4:23)

Read Genesis 4:23

4.) Justice is Merciless (v. 23)

Read verse 23.

Read Romans 3:21-26

5.) Justice and Mercy Meet Their Ultimate Expressions at the Cross

6.) The Already and the Not Yet

A.) Justice Has Been Delivered in Christ and Justice Will be Delivered When He Returns

7.) Conclusion: The Cross is What Love Looks Like in Public