

GOD'S IDEA OF JUSTICE

February 11, 2023

Bible Readings

Take a few minutes to read the Bible verses listed and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in how this verse applies to you this week.

I John 4:19-21, Matthew 9:35-38

Memory Verse

8 The God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God."

Micah 6:8



CASEY'S DAY

written by Ron VandenBurg
illustrated by Chad Thompson



Imagine that you see someone being bullied. Do you just watch, or turn away, or do you try to help the person being bullied? Maybe somebody steals your homework. How would you react? How does God want you to respond? What is God's idea of justice?

In today's verse, God tells us very clearly how he expects his children to act and think.

Act justly. This simply means "do the right thing." We do not decide what is right and wrong; God does. The Bible describes God as just and upright. We can identify what is right or wrong by simply asking, "What does the Bible say?" We should pray and then try to help someone who is being bullied, perhaps by telling an adult. If we follow God's Word, we will always act justly.

Love mercy. Mercy is looking for ways to be kind and to give people a break. God wants us to *love* doing this! He wants us to help people with their needs and be compassionate with those who treat us poorly (like stealing our homework), rather than trying to punish them for being bad. In the Bible, Jesus repeatedly shows us how to live a life full of mercy.

Walk humbly with your God. The only way to act more like Jesus and love more like Jesus is to learn more about Jesus. We walk with God by talking with him in prayer, hearing his voice through the Bible, and obeying what he says.

Injustice happens when people don't follow God's instructions about how to treat people. How can you respond to injustice? Ask God to change the situation. If there is something you can say or do to improve the situation, do it. Show people what God is like by treating them the way he would treat them.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to see people the way you see them. Help me to love people the way you love them. Help me to treat people the way you treat them. In your name I pray. Amen.

written by Jason Perry

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