

Lesson 3 | Justice, Fairness, and Compassion

Objective: To promote a life guided by fairness, compassion, and responsibility, and understand the justice that God commanded Israel to practice should also be reflected in how we treat others.

Biblical Reading: Deuteronomy 24:14-22

Memory Verse: “You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow’s garment as a pledge.” **Deuteronomy 24:17**

Biblical Topic

Justice in God’s law was not a theory or a distant ideal, it was a practical way of life. Every law given to Israel was intended to shape people who were just, compassionate, and mindful of their neighbors’ needs. In ancient times, when social inequality and abuse were common, God taught His people to be different. That is why He established laws that protected workers, the poor, and foreigners. **Leviticus 19:13**

God commanded that wages be paid on time, for He knew that for many workers, their daily pay meant the food they would eat for that day. Denying or delaying that payment was considered a serious injustice in His eyes. This law reveals God’s compassionate heart, which observes not only actions but also intentions (**Deuteronomy 24:14-15**). For Him, justice does not consist in giving what is left over, but in acting with righteousness and mercy.

In addition, the Lord commanded that when harvesting the fields, not all grain should be gathered, nor should the fallen clusters be gleaned. What remained was to be left for the poor, widows, and foreigners. This practice, known as “gleaning” did not foster dependence, but rather dignity, for those in need could work to gather what the owner of the field generously left behind (**Leviticus 19:9-10**). It was a way of remembering that prosperity should not be a reason for selfishness, but for service.

The principle behind these laws was clear, which was, those who had been oppressed must learn not to oppress others. God constantly reminded Israel of its past as slaves in Egypt, so that it would never forget what it felt like to depend on the will of another (**Exodus 22:21**). This memory was meant to become a source of empathy and justice. The people who had been rescued could not be indifferent to the suffering of others.

When these principles are ignored, society breaks down. Selfishness and indifference foster division, injustice, and a decline in compassion. Nevertheless, when God’s justice guides our actions, a more humane, supportive, and purposeful way of life emerges. Jesus himself reaffirmed these values when he said that whatever we do to one of our least brothers, we do to him (**Matthew 25:40**). In this lies the essence of the law, to love in deeds and truth.

Today, we have the opportunity to practice this comprehensive justice. Being just is not limited to following rules, but rather reflecting God's character in every decision. It means treating others with respect, paying fairly, offering help to those in need, and not abusing the trust of others. In a society where everyone looks out for themselves, applying God's law is a way to bring light and balance to our surroundings. **Proverbs 21:3**

Just as Israel had to remember that everything it had was due to God's goodness, we too must act with gratitude. Work, resources, and opportunities are gifts from the Creator, and we must use them with justice and compassion. This way, the law is not only studied but also lived. Finally, when it is lived, it transforms not only the individual but everyone around us. **Micah 6:8**

Church Activity

In the company of the youth society, organize a participatory forum themed "God's Justice in Everyday Life." Divide the group into three teams: one will address justice in the workplace, another justice toward those in need, and a third in personal relationships. Each team can create a poster or brief presentation showing examples of current injustices and the solution offered by God's law. At the end, share the conclusions with the congregation and reflect on how each action contributes to building a more compassionate community.

Home Activity

Answer the following questions and share your answers in the next session.

- Why did God insist that His people remember their past as slaves in Egypt?
- What do the laws of fair wages and gleaning teach us about God's character?
- How can you apply justice and compassion in your relationships with others?
- How can being fair in the small things reflect God's love in your daily life?