

Responding to Delayed Justice

Date: Sep 14, 2025

Texts: Various

A. TEXT

Micah 6:8

8 Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love [NIV,"mercy"], and to walk humbly with your God.

B. INTRO: WILL OUR GOSPEL HOLD UP TO DELAYED JUSTICE?

(Ps 73:3–5, 11-12 CSB)

I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 5 They are not in troublethey are not afflicted....11 The wicked say, "How can God know?...." 12 Look at them.....They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth.

We need the gospel the apostles preached; the message of the Day of Lord.

This is a message, this is a worldview, that will sustain us and train us to deal with injustice.

C. THE PARABLE

(Lk 18:1–8, CSB)

1 Now he told them a parable on the need for them (in this age of injustice) to pray always and not give up. 2 "There was a judge in a certain town who didn't fear God or respect people (the two greatest commandments,) 3 And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, 5 yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn't wear me out by her persistent coming.' " 6 Then the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

Even though he is wicked, he eventually granted her justice.

So if a wicked judge is like that...

7 **Will not God grant justice to his elect who** (because of their faith in his promises about the future) **cry out to him day and night? Will he delay** helping them?

8 I tell you that **he will swiftly grant them justice.** Nevertheless, **when the Son of Man comes** (with angels and fire and shaking and trumpet blast), **will he find faith** on earth?"

(Luke 17:)

24 For **as the lightning flashes** from horizon to horizon and **lights up the sky,** so the Son of Man will be **in his day.** 26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah (and in the days of Lot), so it will be in the days of the Son of Man: 27 **...the flood came and destroyed them all** (the wicked, the perpetrators of injustice) 29 **...on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all.** 30 It will be like that **on the day the Son of Man** (CEV, "appears")

D. EXPECTATION OF DIVINE REVERSAL

(Ps. 96:11-13, CSB)

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice....the Lord, **for He is coming.** For **He is coming to judge the earth.** He will judge the world in **righteousness** and the peoples in His **faithfulness.**

(Isa. 11:4-5, ESV)

4...**with righteousness he shall judge the poor,** and decide **with equity for the meek** of the earth;...with the breath of his lips **he shall kill the wicked** (those that have perpetrated injustice)

(Isa. 29:19, NASB)

The **afflicted** also will increase their gladness in the Lord, and **the needy of mankind will rejoice** in the Holy One of Israel.

(Isa. 42:1, ESV)

He will bring forth justice to the nations.

E. EXPECTATION OF DIVINE PUNISHMENT

(Psalm 11:5-7, NIV)

6 **On the wicked he [the Lord] will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur**; a scorching wind will be their lot. 7 For the LORD is righteous, **he loves justice**;.....

(Isaiah 30:30-33, NIV)

The LORD will cause men to hear his majestic voice and will make them **see his arm coming down** with raging anger and **consuming fire**, with cloudburst, thunderstorm and hail... 33 **Topheth** (The Valley of Hinnom, Gehenna, Hell) has long been prepared; it has been made ready for the king. **Its fire pit** has been made deep and wide, with an abundance of fire and wood; **the breath of the LORD, like a stream of burning sulfur**, sets it **ablaze**.

F. GOD'S PAINFUL MERCY

It's **crucial for our discipleship** to have the cross before the Day gospel deep in our guts:

Justice has been promised.

But Psalm 73 is still happening. Justice is not yet the default state of the world.

And the question then becomes, "**Why?**"

"If God has promised justice, if God has promised to make wrong things right, what is taking so long? Why the delay?"

And the answer is really very simple: the mercy of God.

It's the difference between the two advents, between the Messiah's first appearing & his second.

(Acts 17:31, "fixed...day on which he will judge the world in righteousness",

Because of mercy toward the wicked, he's provided a cross for the forgiveness of their sins.

(Ro 5:8–9, CSB)

8 But **God proves his own love** for us in that while we were still sinners, **[Messiah] died for us.** 9 How much more then, since we have now been justified **by his blood**, will we be **saved through him from** [the Day of] **wrath**

God will absolutely bring justice to the earth, of this we can be sure!

But in the meantime:

(2 Peter 3:9)

God is **patient**, not wanting any to perish (in the day of judgment) but all **to repent and be saved.**

(2 Peter 3:7, ESV)

... **the heavens and earth that now exist** (with, just in 2 Peter, false prophets, depraved ways, greed, polluted, desires, rebellion, slander, lawlessness, & debauchery) **are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.**

G. RESPONDING TO INJUSTICE

1) REPENTANCE

2) RIGHTEOUS ANGER

(Jas 1:19–20, CSB)

19 My dear brothers and sisters, understand this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and **slow to anger**, 20 for **human anger does not accomplish God's righteousness.**

3) GOD HONORING BRAVERY

In times like these, disciples of Jesus must lead the way in courage and accept the consequences.

4) GOD HONORING JUST ACTS

(Micah 6:8, CSB)

8 Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to **act justly, to love [NIV,"mercy"], and to walk humbly with your God.**

(Is 1:17, CSB)

17 Learn to do what is good. **Pursue justice.** Correct the oppressor. Defend the rights of the fatherless. Plead the widow's cause.

Believing in God's future justice doesn't mean we sit on our hands and watch wickedness hold sway.

When Theoden asked Aragorn, ***"What can men do against such reckless hate?"***

Aragorn answered, ***"ride out and meet it."***

Our hope in the gospel of the coming kingdom does not hinder, but ENERGIZES our acts of justice now.

(Ro 13:3–4, CSB)

3 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, **but to bad...** 4 For it is **God's servant** for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because **it does not carry the sword for no reason.**

For it is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.

5) ALWAYS PRAY AND DO NOT GIVE UP

1Now he told them a parable on the need for them ***to pray always and not give up.***

And why is prayer necessary?

Because it is through prayer that we access the grace necessary to respond to injustice rightly.

Prayer is the channel where God will fill us with his power to

- Set out our hopes on the day the sun of man comes
- Walk in repentance
- Be angry and not sin
- Choose bravery over cowardice
- & act justly while we await ultimate justice,