

## The Compassionate Justice of Our Great God

Exodus 23: 16-19

1. **THINK:** How have you viewed the Law of God as described in the Old Testament up until now? Have you seen it as a blessing or a curse? In what ways does it lead you to the Gospel and to Jesus? **DO:** Celebrate the sovereignty of God and the heart of God as exemplified in the Law. Celebrate how He has brought finality to the requirements of the Law in Jesus and how He has drawn you to that.
2. **THINK:** What do you see in the Law that God cares about? If all you had was the Law, which was the case before Jesus, what would you gather that highlights who God is like and what He desires? **DO:** Live out the heart of God this week. As He is compassionate, be compassionate. Live out what you learn and what God highlights in your own heart. What is He leading you to do? Maybe it is talking about the Law to someone, but bringing them in to understand the Gospel's answer to it.
3. **THINK:** How has God revealed Himself as compassionate in your own life? What specific examples would you have others draw their attention to that magnify the character of God in compassionate care? **DO:** Make a list of the needs of those around you. How can and will you practically represent the Lord to those around you? How can you practically live out the command to 'rescue your neighbor's ox or donkey' and be a blessing? Commit yourself to completing your list.
4. **THINK:** What is it personally like to be a foreigner or outsider, or an undesirable? Have you ever experienced that? How? If you have not, how can you identify with that? What would motivate you to identify with those who are friendless, maybe socially awkward, poor and hard to be around? **DO:** There are those around you that fall into this category. How can you move into their territory, be a blessing and live out God's heart for the outcast. Consider ways to deny yourself, as Jesus denied Himself for the outcast in you, and trust Him to be used to exhibit the Gospel: chose death for the sake of those who need life.
5. **THINK:** Do you live as though God is the title-holder to all that is in your possession? Have you considered that all is not in your possession, but really in His? How do you NOT live like that? What do you consider to be just yours? **DO:** One by one, give all that you have over to Him. Lay it before His feet, acknowledging His ownership, yet trusted stewardship given to you. Ask Him to show you how to live the truth of His title-ship over all you have.
6. **THINK:** What is going on in the world and in your own life where you are drawn to question the justice of God? What are you struggling with in regards to God's control of bringing about what is right and just? There are likely areas that you may not be aware of, so take some time to survey the landscape of your heart in regard to this. **DO:** Thank God for each situation. Spend some time acknowledging His control as revealed in the Scriptures. Find Scriptures that address and answer your questions. Begin putting them in

your heart so that you can live with a renewed mind as you fight for faith in tough circumstances and strive to not lean on your own understanding.

7. **THINK:** What should your worship look like when you consider the wrath of God that has been fully satisfied in Christ? How does one respond to that in sincerity and overflowing gratitude? **DO:** Give God your best beginning this week. Give Him your best in : your relationships (purity); your marriage (faithfulness); your time (redeem it and maximize it for the Gospel); your money ( lay up treasures in heaven, not in your temporal life); your thought life (dwell on things that are holy, pure and God-pleasing); your job (do your work heartily as unto the Lord); your free time ( do not love the world or the things in the world)