



**PURPOSE**

LIVE OUT OUR FAITH IN JESUS AND INVITE OTHERS INTO LIFE WITH HIM

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**DEVOTION**

**GOD AS JUDGE**

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**Devotion to God is a commitment to continually deepen our relationship with God and orient our lives around that priority.**

**MICAH 6:8 ESV**

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**PROVERBS 18:17 ESV**

The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines Him.

**We can grow in our devotion to God as we see that, as a judge, He upholds perfect justice and abundant mercy.**

**ZECHARIAH 7:9-10 ESV**

Thus says the Lord of hosts, render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

**We can grow in our devotion to God as we remember that Jesus took our deserved judgment so**

**we could receive total mercy that forgiveness to others.**

**ROMANS 8:1-4 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**We can grow in our devotion to God as we allow His mercy for us to affect how we love and care for others.**

**PSALM 139:23-24 ESV**

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! <sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

**JOHN 12:46-50 ESV**

<sup>46</sup> I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness. <sup>47</sup> If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge Him;

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for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge Him on the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told Me.

### **COLOSSIANS 1:21-22 ESV**

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.

**We can grow in our devotion to God as we recognize that He judged us with mercy when we needed it most.**

### **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 ESV**

For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

**We can grow in our devotion to God as we embrace Him as our judge who desires to save, provide for, and heal all people.**

### **DEVOTIONAL CHALLENGE 7: “JUSTICE AND MERCY”**

**Each day this week, let’s consider the following:**

1. **Justice** - *Is there an area of justice or injustice that God may be asking you to entrust to Him today? Does this mean a step of action or surrender? What could this look like today?*
2. **Mercy** - *How do you need God’s mercy today? In what relationship may you need to extend mercy to someone else? What could this look like today?*
3. **Pray** - *Heavenly Father, thank You for how rightly and mercifully You judge and will judge all things. Please guide me as I seek to do and pursue what is just and what is merciful. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.*

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. In what areas of your life has God been “judging” by shining His light of truth and grace in order to transform you? How do you feel when God brings these areas which need His judgment to mind?
2. How has His tender mercy worked hand-in-hand with His “judgment” in your life? How do you see these two concepts go together?
3. How does knowing of God’s forthcoming and perfect judgment affect our perspective on injustices and transgressions in other people and systems? How do we determine our role in representing the heart of God when faced with injustice?

For more information about taking steps to draw near to God,  
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