



“Just-ish”

How we view God's justice and mercy

Psalm 37 tells us that although the wicked prosper for a time, their time of prosperity will end. It teaches that “justice of God” will come and we should wait on God to act against the wicked. Our job is to trust in following God in all our ways, in our choices - not to be jealous or angry or take matters into our own hands.

But that only seems like just-ish to us. Having to wait and not to penalize others.

THE PLATINUM RULE

- **Be kind to the ungrateful and merciful to the wicked.**
- **To be “kind” does not mean to approve of evil actions, but it means to seek the best interest of those doing harm.**

We all know the golden rule is how the world at its best operates. However, disciples of Christ are to imitate our God who is kind to the ungrateful and merciful to the wicked in hopes they will turn to the light and accept God’s gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. This is like the platinum rule of God...To be “kind” does not mean to approve of evil actions, but it means to seek the best interest of those doing harm.

THE PLATINUM RULE

- **God wants even the ungrateful and the wicked to repent and become a part of the kingdom of God.**
- **We can take moral stands, but with enough grace that *allows* others to repent.**

God wants even the ungrateful and the wicked to repent and become a part of the kingdom of God. Christians sometimes mistake the admonition to stop judging and condemning in Luke 6:37 to mean that the church should never make a moral judgment. Rather, the church should not act like it knows the final verdict on those who seem to oppose God. Human perception is always finite. We can take moral stands, but with enough grace that *allows* others to repent.

Forgiveness Always Overflows



The second half of verse 37 and verse 38 reminds us that if we ‘Forgive, we will be forgiven.’ “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” To be unforgiven and unforgiving is to be imprisoned by the lack of forgiveness. Because we are secure that we will be forgiven, it is possible to forgive others. Release is given both those who forgive and those who are forgiven.

When a community lives forgiveness and mercy on the basis of the God’s word, they will be in a position similar to the person who goes to the market for grain. The merchant fills the measuring container to the brim and shakes it down so that every cranny is filled, and then pours the overflowing grain into the apron of the buyer to carry home. In a similar way, God pours out the power of the Kingdom on the communities that live into it.

KINDNESS AND MERCY TODAY?



Psalm 11:5

“The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love **violence**, he hates with a passion.”

I confess to being perplexed about these practices for today. On the one hand, it is easy to say why Christians sometimes say that these principles, such as turning the other cheek, are unrealistic in such a violent world. The violent often run over those who do not retaliate. On the other hand, meeting violence with violence most often increases violence. At the same time, sometimes the only thing that seems to limit violence is a controlled violent response. Those who choose this route should never accompany it with flag waving and bands, but should proceed with mourning, and with an eye for opportunities to exercise mercy.

THE PLATINUM RULE



In any situation we need to remember the platinum rule - not to be jealous or angry or take matters into our own hands, but instead imitate our God who is kind to the ungrateful and merciful to the wicked in hopes they will turn to the light and accept God's gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Trust God's judgement is right and good and the timing in best.