

Jesus Is Just in Judgment

Luke 10:8-16

I love the message of grace. I love the love of God. I believe that the greatest need of every human being is to "know the love of God which is passes knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19). The hymn writer said it best:

Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made;
Were every stalk on earth a quill, and every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above, would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

Yet, this gospel of love has a flip side. When Jesus sent out the 70 to "preach the kingdom of God," He spoke of those who rejected the gospel. The good news is only good because of existence of bad news.

I. It is certain that there is coming a day of judgment

There is a simplicity of the message; "*The kingdom of God is near you*" (Luke 10:9; 11). J.C. Ryle states, "To a well-taught Israelite, they would sound like the announcement that the times of the Messiah had arrived, that the long-promised Savior was about to be revealed, and that the desire of the nations has appeared (see Haggai 2:7)." However, the Kingdom message now only includes the blessings of its King, but also the cursings that accompany it if people do not accept the message! "*Woe to you*" (Luke 10:13), says Jesus. "I tell you, it will be more tolerable in **that day** for Sodom than for that city" (Luke 10:12). This day is called "The Day" or otherwise known as the "Day of Judgment."

- A. **It is a day of works examination** – "they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead" (I Peter 4:5). "The Lord will bring to light the things hidden" (I Corinthians 4:5).
- B. **It is a day of wrath expressed** – "'Because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on **the day of wrath** when God's righteous judgment is revealed" (Rom. 2:5).

II. It is certain that those who receive Christ by faith escape this judgment

This is the gospel. This is good news. This is the Bible's theme and message from beginning to end. From Genesis to Revelation; from the first Garden to the last Garden; from Passover to Paul, every Scripture is a revelation of the work of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinners deserving of God's judgment.

- A. **Salvation is a deliverance from punitive wrath** – "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). Jesus warned people to "flee from the wrath to come" (Matt. 3:7).
- B. **Salvation is a deposit of perfect righteousness** – "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe" (Rom. 3:21-22).

III. It is certain that the judgment for the lost is just, equitable and varied according to one's sins

The great truth of the gospel is that God's people are rewarded for the obedience of Jesus Christ. Those who reject the King and His message find that they will be judged "according to their sins." The best encouragement for "good works" and "moral behavior" is a "more tolerable" punishment. John describes The Day - "The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged *according to what they had done*" (Rev. 20:13).

- A. **The final Judgment is varied** ... "It will be more tolerable for Sodom in that day" (Luke 10:12). He or she who lives in a day when the Good News is shared, but rejects Christ, should worry.
- B. **The final Judgment is just** ... "Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord." (Romans 12:19).