

Justice and Mercy
II Chronicles 21:4-20; Obadiah

Review:

1. We must be careful in choosing sides, because we are all undeserving sinners
2. God is gracious to sinners because of the work of Christ, not because we are worthy of His mercy
3. We can be sure that God will keep His word, bringing perfect justice to those who reject His covenant promises and gracious pardon to those who surrender to Jesus

Reflect:

1. Who are you tempted to look down on? How does today's passage challenge such opinions?
2. How does God's grace for unworthy sinners give you hope?

Go Further: Read Hosea 2:2-23

1. In Hosea chapter 2, the Lord speaks of His people as Hosea's mother. What does the Lord urge her to put away?
2. In verse 3, what does the Lord say will happen to her if she refuses?
3. In verse 4, what does the Lord say will happen to her children?
4. According to verse 5, who does the Lord say that His bride gives credit for her material blessings? What do these blessings include?
5. In verse 6, what does the Lord say He will do to his ungrateful bride?
6. According to verse 7, what will she be prevented from doing?
7. What will she say as a result?
8. According to verse 8, Who is really responsible for Israel's material blessings?
9. What does verse 9 say God will take away from His people and why?
10. According to verse 11, to what does God promise to put an end?
11. In verse 12, what does God promise to destroy? How will He do this?
12. In verse 13, why does God say He will punish His people? Who does He say they forgot?
13. As a result of His people's unfaithfulness, what does God promise to do in verse 14? Where will God pour out His grace on His people?
14. What does God promise to give His people in verse 15? What will they do in response?
15. In verse 18, with whom does God promise to make a covenant? What does He promise to destroy?
16. In verses 19 and 20, how does God promise to betroth His people to Himself?
17. What does He say His people will know on that day?

Summary and Application:

1. Think about the material blessings that you enjoy. Besides the Lord, what might you be tempted to give the credit for those things?
2. Think about verse 10. What do you think it means that God would give His people over to their lovers? Why might it be dangerous to have no limitations on the things we love the most?
3. Think about verse 11. Given the divided loyalties of the people of Israel, why would the Lord not want their worship? What does this say about our need to worship God with our whole heart?
4. In verse 16, "Ishi" means "my husband" and "Baali" means "my master." Why do you think God said He prefers the first title to the second?
5. Verses 19-23 describe what things will be like when Christ returns. Given this description, what are you most looking forward to on that Day?