

## “Poetic Justice”

When we get to see people experience bad (“just”) consequences for their risky or bad behavior

- Especially when the punishment “fits” the crime

When are we upset that poetic justice doesn’t happen?

- When people get away with doing the wrong we do, or wish we could do, or pride ourselves that we don’t do

When do we like poetic justice?

- We people we don’t like or look down on receive justice

When don’t we like poetic justice?

- When we are the ones receiving justice

1

## What do we celebrate at Christmas?

- The Son of God entered the world as a human being
- He **taught** us how to live
- He **showed** us how to live
- He **gave up His life** to rescue us
- He **commanded** us:
  - Love God with **everything you have**
  - Love your neighbors **and your enemies** as much as you love yourselves
  - Worship Him as God alone
- **How are we doing??**

2

### The Apostle John's Assessment

“The true light (Jesus Christ) that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world,

and though the world was made through him,

**the world did not recognize him.**

He came to that which was his own,

but **his own did not receive him.**”

*John 1:9-11*

3

### What does “did not recognize Him” **mean**?

- **We do not realize (or we choose not to realize) that Jesus is God**
- **We do not treat Jesus as God, because we do not treat God as God**
  - **He has total authority over life and death and creation**
    - **But we think our ways are better**
  - **He is the only one who holds life in His hands**
    - **But we want to control life**
  - **He is the one who will judge the final judgment**
    - **But we think we can do a better job**

4

### What does “did not recognize Him” **look like?**

- Being **too busy** to see Him or listen to Him
- Never **getting around to loving** Him with head, heart, and hands
- Being **more concerned about what other people think** of me than what Jesus thinks of me
- Being **more concerned about what I think of me** than what Jesus thinks of me
- Treating Him as though **He isn't strong enough or powerful enough** to protect me or do what I need
- Thinking **He doesn't love me enough**, or that **He can't love me enough**, to take care of me
- **Looking to other powers or sources** of help instead of looking to Him
- **Insulting Him** with faint praise (“He helps me get through life”) or insincere praise (“I bow down...”)

5

- Each one of us so often **fails to recognize Jesus as God**
- Each family and group so often **fails to recognize Him as God**
- Humanity has so often **failed to recognize Him as God**
- God came in the flesh, and **we don't recognize Him as God**
- What would poetic justice (and real justice) look like?
  - God rejects those who don't recognize Jesus as God
  - This is both poetic justice and real justice!
  - And it **must be** because God is just
- And yet...God says there is hope
- Why? Where does it come from?

6

**Those who do not recognize Him as God**  
**Those who do not **make** time for Him**  
**Those who value other things or people**  
**more than Him**  
**People we look down on / Us / Me**

For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

7

Those who do not recognize Him as God  
 Those who do not **make** time for Him  
 Those who value other things or people  
 more than Him  
 People we look down on / Us / Me

**The complete disaster of being**  
**separated from Light and Life (God)**

For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have eternal life.

8

**The Creator**  
**The Ruler**  
**Whom we overlook & ignore**

Those who do not recognize Him as God  
 Those who do not **make** time for Him  
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 People we look down on / Us / Me

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9

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Those who do not recognize Him as God  
 Those who do not **make** time for Him  
 Those who value other things or people  
 more than Him

**Wants our good**  
**And takes action**  
**to get it for us**

People we look down on / Us / Me

The complete disaster of being  
 separated from Light and Life (God)

For **God** so **loved** **the world** that he gave his one and only  
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10

<p>The Creator The Ruler Whom we overlook &amp; ignore</p> <p>His love is so great, and it is so real, that...</p>	<p>Wants our good And takes action to get it for us</p>	<p>Those who do not recognize Him as God Those who do not <b>make</b> time for Him Those who value other things or people more than Him People we look down on / Us / Me The complete disaster of being separated from Light and Life (God)</p>
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11

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For **God** **so** **loved** **the world** that **he gave his one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not **perish** but have eternal life.

**Incarnation: took on humanity!**  
**Humiliation: mocked by the ones**  
**He came to save**  
**Suffering and death**

12

<b>The Creator</b>	Those who do not recognize Him as God
<b>The Ruler</b>	Those who do not <b>make</b> time for Him
<b>Whom we overlook &amp; ignore</b>	Those who value other things or people more than Him
His love is so great, and it is so real, that...	People we look down on / Us / Me
Wants our good And takes action to get it for us	The complete disaster of being separated from Light and Life (God)
For <b>God</b> so <b>loved</b> the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not <b>perish</b> but have <b>eternal life</b> .	
<b>The limitless joy of perfect love and life forever growing and expanding</b>	<b>Incarnation: took on humanity!</b> <b>Humiliation: mocked by the ones</b> <b>He came to save</b> <b>Suffering and death</b>

13

<b>The Creator</b>	Those who do not recognize Him as God
<b>The Ruler</b>	Those who do not <b>make</b> time for Him
<b>Whom we overlook &amp; ignore</b>	Those who value other things or people more than Him
His love is so great, and it is so real, that...	People we look down on / Us / Me
Wants our good And takes action to get it for us	The complete disaster of being separated from Light and Life (God)
For <b>God</b> so <b>loved</b> the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever <b>believes</b> in him shall not <b>perish</b> but have <b>eternal life</b> .	
<b>The limitless joy of perfect love and life forever growing and expanding</b>	<b>Incarnation: took on humanity!</b> <b>Humiliation: mocked by the ones</b> <b>He came to save</b> <b>Suffering and death</b>
	<b>trusts depends on accepts His love</b>

14

<b>The Creator</b>		<b>Those who do not recognize Him as God</b>
<b>The Ruler</b>		<b>Those who do not <b>make</b> time for Him</b>
<b>Whom we overlook &amp; ignore</b>		<b>Those who value other things or people more than Him</b>
<b>His love is so great, and it is so real, that...</b>	<b>Wants our good</b>	<b>People we look down on / Us / Me</b>
	<b>And takes action to get it for us</b>	<b>The complete disaster of being separated from Light and Life (God)</b>
For <b>God</b> so <b>loved</b> the world that he gave his one and only Son, that <b>whoever</b> believes in him shall not <b>perish</b> but have eternal life.		
<b>The limitless joy of perfect love and life forever growing and expanding</b>	<b>any sin or shame</b>	<b>Incarnation: took on humanity!</b>
	<b>trusts depends on accepts His love</b>	<b>Humiliation: mocked by the ones He came to save</b>
		<b>Suffering and death</b>

15

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

16



The Son of God did **not** come into **a neutral world** to save some and condemn others

The Son of God came into **a lost world** to **save all who would trust Him**

The Son of God did **not** come to find good people who just needed a bit more help to be saved

The Son of God came **to find and to save guilty, shameful, and enslaved people**

17

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

18

*The Big Idea*

**In Christmas  
we celebrate this incredible love of God  
who gave His beloved and only Son  
even to shame, suffering, and death  
to rescue guilty, shameful, and enslaved people  
and to give us unspeakable goodness and joy  
forever  
as we trust in this Son of God, our Savior**

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*Application*

**1) Receive this great love!**

- It is entirely a gift flowing from the limitless love of God
- We receive it by believing in Jesus, the Son of God
  - **Recognize Jesus as God**
    - **Head:** believe the truth that Jesus is the only Son of God, and He is the only way to genuine and lasting life
    - **Heart:** bow before Him as God alone
    - **Hands:** accept His commands as our standard for life
  - **Recognize Jesus as our Savior**
    - He rescues and saves guilty, shameful, enslaved people
    - To be loved children of God forever
    - Who grow into the glory of their heavenly Father

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*Application*

**1) Receive this great love!**

- It is not “a clean slate” or a chance to try again
- It is being adopted as a deeply loved child of God
- Forever
- Yet it is so easy to slip back into thinking God doesn’t really love us, or can’t really love us, unless we improve

**God will never regret saving you  
because His love never fades  
and you aren’t the reason He loved you in the first place!!!**

21

*Application*

**1) Receive this great love!**

- Some of us believe in Jesus,  
and yet we are still trying to earn God’s love
- We want to think we can be good enough to deserve it
- **Impossible!!**
- **Do we think so little of the love of God??**

**Receive God’s love  
entirely as a gift  
for guilty, shameful, and enslaved people  
who trust in Jesus as their Savior**

22

*Application*

**2) Love one another with this great love!**

“Dear friends, let us **love one another**, for **love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. This is how **God showed his love** among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us** and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since **God so loved us**, we also ought to **love one another**. No one has ever seen God; but if we **love one another**, **God lives in us** and his love is made complete in us.” *1 John 4:7-12*

23

*Application*

**2) Love one another with this great love!**

Love others who don't deserve it  
with the love you got and don't deserve

- **Bless those who curse you. Give to those who ask of you.**
- **Be patient and kind. Don't envy or boast or be proud.**
- **Don't dishonor others, or be self-seeking, or be easily angered, or keep track of others' wrongs.**
- **Don't rejoice in others' troubles or wrongs**
- **Rejoice in what is true and good, even when it comes to my 'enemies'**
- **Always protect others' good and honor**
- **Always believe that there is more good in people than I can see**
- **Always hope for what is good and always persevere**

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*Application*

**2) Love one another with this great love!**

“No one has ever seen God;  
but if we **love one another**,  
**God lives in us** and his love is made complete in us.”

25

*Application*

**3) Make known this great love, by actions and words**

Freely you have received. So freely give

**This kind of love in action** is unmistakable evidence of  
the presence of God

“How can they believe in the one of whom they have not  
heard? And how can they hear **without someone  
preaching to them?**” *Romans 10:14*

**Tell people, and show people, what God is like,  
loving people in a way they could never deserve  
Empowered by the Spirit of God who is love**

26

*The Big Idea*

**In Christmas**

**we celebrate this incredible love of God  
who gave His beloved and only Son  
even to shame, suffering, and death  
to rescue guilty, shameful, and enslaved people  
and to give us unspeakable goodness and joy  
forever  
as we trust in this Son of God, our Savior**

- 1. Receive this great love**
- 2. Give this great love**
- 3. Make known this great love**

27

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

28