Hook: Justice v Fairness

The central focus of our hook was: "Is God just or fair"? The words justice and fairness are so closely related, that they tend to be used interchangeable. However, as we discussed, Justice holds a bit more weight to it. The following video sums up the discussion we had last week. The speaker uses the parable of the "Workers in the Vineyard" (Matt. 20:1-16) mixed with her own personal testimony, to give an explain on the Justice of God:

God is Just, Not fair

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuI01mAgG2Q

Main Lesson: God's judgement is severe, and His mercy is great. (Ex 12:29-32)

The significance of the final plague

With the final plague came death across the entire region of Egypt of every firstborn male without distinction. I didn't matter if they were man or beast, slave or free, noble or peasant, Pharaoh or beggar. The bible states that all of Egypt mourned and not a single house was without loss. With this final act of judgement all debates had ended, God had judged the gods of Egypt and showed them to be empty idols, this includes Pharaoh (who was regarded by his people to be divine in nature). By striking down the "gods" of Egypt, in particular Pharaohs son, God told Pharaoh that he was not God and that there was only one true God.

Biblical stories such as these should never be read lightly because in them we see the how terrible God's judgments can be. So far, we have explored, the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and now the decimation of an entire civilization by divine decree, through means of calamities. All these say one thing very clearly, God's judgments are severe.

The installation of the Passover

However, there is another side to the story. While the angel of death hovered over the Egyptian lands, off in a corner of the Egyptian empire, in the region of Goshen, there was a group of people who were experiencing the blessings of the mercies of God. Enjoying a meal, in hopeful anticipation of their freedom which was just on the other side of the sunrise. Let us be clear, everybody deserved the severe Judgement that fell on Egypt that night, including the Israelites. However, the people of Israel were spared. As we have studied before, their salvation came through faithful obedience (the sacrifice of the lamb and the smearing of its blood). God, in his mercy, offered the Israelites protection from the oncoming plague. If you will recall, the Passover meal was established that night to be a lasting practice that was to serve as a remembrance of the night that the Lord mercifully "passed over" them.

We should remember both the severity and the mercy of God. We all deserve judgment, but God in his great mercy has called us to come under his protection and care, by embracing Christ Jesus and living a life set apart for Him.

How we should respond to the Passover?

- 1. Just as the sacrificial Passover lamb was how the people of Israel were saved. We must remember that true freedom come in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29)
- Just as the people of Israel were commanded to observe the Passover meal year after year to remember the what the Lord had to for the. We too ought to keep at the forefront of our minds and hearts the Love of God by worshipping and exalting the means of our salvation, the Lamb of God.
- 3. We must tell the world about the Lamb. We should tell others about the judgement that is to come and the good news of salvation through Christ.

Some things to reflect on till next time

Exodus 13:17-22

... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)