

## Unjust and Faithless Shepherds

*Gospel of John, Part LXII*

John 18:12-27

Stuart W. Bryan

- I. **Apostolic Foundations**
- II. **Synoptic Harmony**
- III. **Interrogations of the Shepherds**

A. Arrest (12-14)

B. The Opening Interrogation of Peter (15-18)

C. The Interrogation of Jesus (19-23)

D. The Latter Interrogations of Peter (24-27 cf. 13:37-38)

## IV. **Matters of Justice**

A. The Centrality of Justice (Gen 18:18-19; Ps 11:7; Pr 21:3; Mic 6:6-8)

Webster's 1828 defines \_\_\_\_\_ as, "*The virtue which consists in giving to every one what is his due...*" or "*that to which he has a right*" (Nash, 29). Injustice, therefore, is defined as "*iniquity; wrong; any violation of another's rights...*" God Himself is \_\_\_\_\_. As Abraham asks prior to God's investigation of the wickedness of Sodom, "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal \_\_\_\_\_?*" (Gen 18:25).

Because God loves justice and has created mankind in His image, He expects us to love and uphold justice as well. "*For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright*" (Ps 11:7). When God made His covenant with Abraham, He announced, "*Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him. For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_...*" (Gen 18:18-19). Solomon likewise declared, "*To do righteousness and \_\_\_\_\_ is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice*" (Pr 21:3). This is why Micah asks: "*With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do \_\_\_\_\_, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?*" (Micah 6:6-8)

- I. Prologue: The Identity of the Son of God (1:1-18)
- II. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Public Ministry (1:19-12:50)
  - A. The Son of God Revealed (1:19-4:54)
  - B. The Son of God Rejected (5:1-12:36)
  - C. Conclusion (12:37-50)
- III. Jesus Proven to be the Christ & the Son of God in His Passion and Resurrection (13:1-20:31)
  - A. Introduction: He knew His hour had come (13:1)
  - B. Jesus Prepares the Disciples for His Departure (13:2-17:26)
  - C. Jesus Departs this world to the Father (18:1-20:29)
  - D. Conclusion: Purpose of the Gospel (20:30-31)
- IV. Epilogue: The Future Mission of the Son of God (21)

## B. Principles of Justice (Dt 8:5-6, 8 cf. Ex. 23:1-3; 1 Kgs 21:13)

Where is justice revealed? In God's \_\_\_\_\_. *"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For... what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day?"* (Dt 8:5-6, 8)

### 1. Lest Innocent Blood be Shed (Dt 19:1-13 esp. 10 cf. Acts 24:13)

God established Cities of Refuge to guarantee a \_\_\_\_\_ trial *"lest innocent blood be shed in the midst of your land which the Lord your God is giving you..."* (Dt 19:10).

### 2. Two or Three Witnesses (Dt 19:15-21)

Justice demands that \_\_\_\_\_ establish the guilt of the accused. The accused is assumed to be innocent unless two or three witnesses are able to establish that he is guilty. *"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established"* (Dt 19:15).

### 3. Don't pervert justice (Lev 19:15; Dt 16:18-20)

- *"You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor."* (Lev 19:15)
- *"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the LORD your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the LORD your God is giving you."* (Dt 16:18-20)

*"You shall not circulate a false report. Do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness. You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice. You shall not show partiality to a poor man in his dispute."* (Ex 23:1-3)

## C. The Just Man (Lk 12:4-9 cf. Is 51:7-8, 12-13)

*"And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God."* (Lk 12:4-9)

## V. Conclusion