

“When Justice and Love Collide”  
2 Samuel 18:1-18

*“The justice of God is demonstrated at the cross. As Jesus was crucified, the sins of the world were laid on Him (Isaiah 53:4-5), and Jesus’ death became the propitiation, or the satisfaction, of God’s justice: ‘God put [Christ] forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness’ (Romans 3:25). God could not just ignore sin; justice requires a penalty. To our eternal benefit, that penalty for sin fell on Jesus Christ: ‘It was to show His righteousness at the present time, so that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus’ ” (Romans 3:26). (Got Questions)*

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish (receive the righteous judgment/justice of God) but have eternal life (the grace that comes by faith in Jesus Christ).” (John 3:16)*

- The Plan: (2 Samuel 18:1-5)
  - “You know that your father and his men are mighty men....your father is expert in war.” (2 Samuel 17:8)
    - Joab (2 Samuel 10:7-14; 1 Chronicles 10:4-6; 20:1-3)
    - Abishai (1 Samuel 26:6-12; 2 Samuel 23:18-19)
    - Ittai the Gittite (2 Samuel 15:18-22)
  - “And I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” (2 Samuel 17:3; cf. 2 Samuel 17:14b)
    - “But you are worth ten thousand of us!”
  - “And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai” (2 Samuel 3:22-30)
    - “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.”
    - “And all the people heard....”
      - “But Jesus on His part did not entrust Himself to them, because **He knew all people** and needed no one to bear witness about man, for He Himself **knew what was in man.**” (John 2:24-25)
      - “Yet if it had not been for the law, I would have not known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, ‘You shall not covet.’ ” (Romans 7:7b)
- God’s Plan: (2 Samuel 18:6-15)
  - “The loss there was great on that day, twenty thousand men....”
  - “The forest devoured more people that day than the sword....”
  - Joab is known for his awful character and yet God still uses him as an instrument of justice.
  - Everyone is used by God, despite us, not because of us (Romans 13:1-7).
- The Slowness But Certainty of God’s Wrath (2 Samuel 18:16-18)
  - God had mercy....“for Joab restrained them.”
  - God had mercy....“They raised over Absalom a very great heap of stones.”
  - God had mercy....“It is called Absalom’s monument to this day.”
    - “O LORD, I have heard the report of You, and Your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years revive it; in the midst of the years make it known; **in wrath remember mercy.**” (Habakkuk 3:2)

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of February we are collecting monetary donations for the Lambs. They are a missionary family living and serving in Papua New Guinea, working to translate the Bible into the multiple different languages of that country. There is a container on the back table to collect your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Lambs.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be participating in and celebrating Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, February 4th.

★**NEW MEMBERS CLASS:** For anyone interested in becoming a church member, we are offering a 2 week New Members Class starting Sunday, February 18th, from 9-10am in the Fellowship Hall. There is a sign-up list on the table in the entryway, please sign-up if you are interested in participating in this class. This class is also open to any current church members who are interested in learning more about our Church By-Laws.