

James Rafferty-Q1-L6-2025-Hold Fast to Love & Justice-Feb 6

Lesson 6: God's Love of Justice (Thursday)

February 1-7

Thursday *February 6*

Hold Fast to Love and Justice

Scripture consistently teaches that “the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments’ ” (*Deut. 7:9, NKJV*). His character of goodness and love was supremely demonstrated by Jesus at the cross (*see Rom. 3:25, 26; Rom. 5:8*). According to Psalm 100:5, “The Lord is good; [H]is steadfast love endures forever, and [H]is faithfulness to all generations” (*ESV; compare with Ps. 89:2*). Thus, God can be trusted; He gives only good gifts to His children (*James 1:17; compare with Luke 11:11–13*). In fact, He bestows good things even on those who position themselves as His enemies.

Read Matthew 5:43–48. What does this teach about God’s amazing love? How should we act toward others in light of this teaching of Jesus?

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

47 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more *than others*? do not even the publicans so?

48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5 describes God's love as perfect love. Imperfect love is the love that loves only those who love you. But God loves even those who hate Him, even those who position themselves as His enemies. His love is complete and, therefore, perfect.

Though God's love and mercy far exceed any reasonable expectations, it never overrides or contravenes justice. On the contrary, it brings justice and mercy together (*Ps. 85:10*).

Likewise, the Bible exhorts us: “ ‘Observe mercy and justice, and wait on your God continually’ ” (*Hos. 12:6, NKJV*). As another version puts it, “Hold fast to love and justice” (*Hos. 12:6, ESV; compare with Luke 11:42*).

In the end, God Himself will bring about perfect justice. Romans 2:5 teaches, His “righteous judgment will be revealed” (*Rom. 2:5, ESV*). Finally, the redeemed will sing: “ ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments

have been manifested' ” (Rev. 15:3, 4, *NKJV*; compare with Rev. 19:1, 2).

REVELATION 19:1-6 ALLELUIA -ONLY PLACE IN ENTIRE BIBLE. WHY HERE AND WHY NOW?
OUR DESTINY TO PRAISE GOD IN ALL THINGS
THE FINAL JUSTICE OF GODS CHARACTER EXERCISED TOWARD SIN.

Isaiah 25:1 proclaims, “O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth” (NKJV). How can we learn to praise God, even in bad times? In what ways can your life itself be an offering of praise to God in a way that furthers justice in your sphere of influence?

SE-1Q-2025, *God's Love and Justice*, by John C. Peckham