

BEST

of

BOTH

A STUDY OF POLARITIES:
COMPASSION // JUSTICE

WEEK 4: COMPASSION // JUSTICE

When we think about the brokenness and sin of this world, the tension between compassion and justice becomes apparent. We see the greatest balance of compassion and justice from God, who is both just and compassionate at the same time. **Let's explore what the Bible says about both sides of this polarity.**

DAY 1: COMPASSION

Compassion is a tangible expression of love for those who are suffering. It's not just an awareness or simple desire to reduce suffering. A compassionate person recognizes the suffering of others and takes action to help. God is compassionate and shows mercy to those who admit they are sinners who need saving. We will see evidence of that today. →

LUKE 23:32-43

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What does it say about God?
- What does this passage say about compassion?
- How would you feel if your worst enemy was the one next to Jesus forgiven on their last day?

Justice is innate in each of us. We carry the conviction that oppressors should be punished and the weak protected. We all know that things are not as they should be and that things need to be made right. When we see evil in the world, we see the need for justice. In its simplest form, justice sets things right. Eventually, God will make all things right. →

ACTS 5:1-11

- What does the passage say about God?
- What does it say about justice?
- How does this view of justice differ from your own?
- How would you feel if Ananias and Sapphira were your best friends? How would that change your view of God's justice?

DAY 2: JUSTICE

DAY 3: REFLECTION

Take time to reflect on what you've discovered from studying the different examples of compassion and justice.

1. How have you sought God's wisdom as you have explored balancing this polarity this week?
2. Who have you partnered with to explore this polarity? Who has helped you along the way?
3. What tension do you feel as you read these two stories?
4. How do you reconcile God's justice with his compassion?
5. How do you need to let these passages shape your life? How will you obey and manage the tension of compassion and justice in your own life?