

Parish of Ferndown: Study Sheet for 26th April 2010
The Character of God – “A God of Justice and Mercy”
Romans 3:21-28 & Ezekiel 37:1-14

OPENING DISCUSSION

What comes to mind when you hear the words “Justice” or “Mercy” applied in every day life?

BIBLE STUDY & APPLICATION

1. If you were in Church, what was the thing you were most struck about from the sermon Martin preached?
2. When you think of the church in England, do you see signs of hope, or of further decline?
3. When we are in church sitting with visitors, or when we end up chatting about faith in work or school or home, why is it easier to talk about God’s mercy than his justice?
4. Read Romans 3:21-28
5. Romans 3:21-26 has some big “Christian” words. How can we summarise the facts of this passage so we can explain it to someone who has no faith? Have a go!
6. Some people say the Cross was purely a demonstration of God’s love – and not a sacrifice for sin. They are tempted to say so because they think “sacrifice” speaks of an angry God needing to be appeased. But why is their view equally problematic for our view of God?
7. How are we justified? Should we boast?
8. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14
9. Ezekiel is asked to prophesy twice. What was different about the nature of these prophetic messages/prayers? What were the two stages of the “miracle” in his vision
10. Cotton Mather was a puritan Minister from New England in the 17th Century. He said, “The great design ... of a Christian preacher [is] to restore the throne and dominion of God in the souls of men and women.” Why is this important?
11. Read verses 9-10. Who alone can make dry bones and dead bodies into an army?

PRAYER

- God replaces Dry, Depressed and a Dejected people with Re-formed, Re-filled, and Restored people. Pray into these facts in your life, group and church.
- Pray for all who preach and pastor

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