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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
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The Merciful Justice of God, or God Counts to Three

Genesis 18:16-33

Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

The Story of Us All

- ❖ The Bible in general, and Genesis in particular, presents a unique and universal worldview.
- ❖ The worldview presented in the scriptures is dependent on revelation rather than discovery.
- ❖ The Bible in its entirety, including Genesis, is about God's redemption of mankind and the renewal of all things in Christ.

Luke 24:27 (ESV) — 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (See also, John 5:39-40; Acts 8:26-35)

Central Passage

Genesis 18:22–25 (ESV) — 22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. 23 Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

Central Thought: As a just and merciful Father, God is looking for any valid reason to turn away from his just judgement and wrath, which is ultimately and finally accomplished in the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus.

God is Just and Merciful

Ezekiel 33:11 (ESV) — 11 Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live...

Psalms 103:8–14 (ESV) — 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. 14 For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

- ❖ Because God is just and merciful, my prayers matter.

Deuteronomy 9:25–26 (ESV) — 25 "So I lay prostrate before the LORD for these forty days and forty nights, because the LORD had said he would destroy you. 26 And I prayed to the LORD, 'O Lord GOD, do not destroy your people and your heritage, whom you have redeemed through your greatness, whom you have brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

- ❖ Because God is just and merciful, my behavior matters.

Ezekiel 22:30–31 (ESV) — 30 And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none. 31 Therefore I have poured out my indignation upon them. I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath. I have returned their way upon their heads, declares the Lord GOD."

- ❖ Because God is just and merciful, he sent Jesus in perfect righteousness, as sacrifice for sin and the source of salvation.

1 John 2:1–2 (ESV) — 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.