

## Proverbs 1:20-33

<sup>20</sup>Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; <sup>21</sup>at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: <sup>22</sup>"How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup>If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. <sup>24</sup>But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, <sup>25</sup>since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, <sup>26</sup>I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you- <sup>27</sup>when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you. <sup>28</sup>"Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. <sup>29</sup>Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord, <sup>30</sup>since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, <sup>31</sup>they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. <sup>32</sup>For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

## Psalm 2:4

<sup>4</sup>The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

## Isaiah 1:12-20

<sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? <sup>13</sup>Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations- I cannot bear your evil assemblies. <sup>14</sup>Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts my soul hates. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup>When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; <sup>16</sup>wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight! Stop doing wrong, <sup>17</sup>learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow. <sup>18</sup>"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. <sup>19</sup>If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; <sup>20</sup>but if you resist and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword." For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

## **Matthew 23:33-39**

<sup>33</sup>"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? <sup>34</sup>Therefore I am sending you prophets and wise men and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. <sup>35</sup>And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup>I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation. <sup>37</sup>"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. <sup>38</sup>Look, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

## **Revelation 6:15-17**

<sup>15</sup>Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. <sup>16</sup>They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup>For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

## **Luke 23:32-43**

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup>and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." <sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: <sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" <sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup>Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. " <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

## Romans 1:21-32

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. <sup>26</sup>Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup>In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. <sup>28</sup>Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup>They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup>slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup>they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup>Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

### Message notes:

We're to know the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

This is the creator God speaking to His creation that has \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Evil is the \_\_\_\_\_ of your choices.

These are meant to be \_\_\_\_\_.

The miracle is that God \_\_\_\_\_ to our voice!

These hard words are signs of \_\_\_\_\_.

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to His patience.

There is a \_\_\_\_\_ to the holiness of God that we tend to discount because of our focus on the mercy of God.

The only place justice is satisfied is at the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Discussion Questions:**

How has this teaching challenged your thoughts on the mercy of God?

Why is turning your back on God so serious?

How can we balance the goodness and severity of God?

Why is the justice of God so important for us to understand?

How can we find the mercy of God in the middle of serious moments of holiness?

How can discussions like this provoke us to grow deeper in our understanding of God?

### **Ministry Questions:**

Has anyone realized a new seriousness of sin in your own life which will lead you to needing make changes in your life?

Does anyone have family members or close friends that are still in the place of mocking God?

### **Answer Key:**

goodness/severity

mocked

consequence

warnings

listens

mercy

limit

seriousness

cross