

Read - Psalm 19

1. What is the relationship between justice and fairness? Is justice fairness?
2. The standard of justice is God's nature (last week's sermon) and His Law (Ps. 19, found in the Old Testament and the New. Fairness is an arbitrary changing comparative concept based on our perceptions. Justice is eternal divine rectitude or just desert. **Romans 2:6** quoting Ps. 61:12 and Jesus in Mt. 16:27, "the righteous judgment of God who will render to every man according to his deeds."
3. God's requirements have no wiggle room. **Micah 6:8**, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with." Justice is owed to God and to our neighbor **Mt. 12:28-31**. We cannot earn what God gives us. What God gives to us is given out of the kindness of his heart out of grace as a gift not a reward.  
**Mt. 20:1-16 Mercy – What is God like?** This is mercy the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of Micah 6:8. No one was cheated. The action was just. No one can work hard enough. All are sinners and worthy of death and hell. None are better. Only by grace can one be saved. **It was not fair for Jesus to suffer and die but it was JUST if we are to be saved.**  
And lastly according to Micah 6:8 - Understanding God's mercy allows us to be humble and "God gives grace to the humble" 1 Pet. 5:5.
4. In modern society we think of JUSTICE as FAIRNESS according to the law. When people receive justice they receive what they deserve and pay for damages done or repaid for injuries occurred. Justice is related to God's nature and His Law in Scripture. When the courts tell Jim Deweese to take down the 10 commandments, they are saying there is no justice only fairness.  
Proverbs 28:1-5 "Evil men do not understand justice."
5. Biblical Justice is living in just relationships of love and care that flows from God's character through His people. **Amos 5:21-24 states**, "I hate, I reject your festivals, Nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings, Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Justice is so important to God that if God's people don't do justice their worship and devotion are rendered meaningless (**Is. 1:10-17, Jer. 9:23-24.**) Live justly and act justly not according to the whims of "social justice" or contemporary ideas of fairness, but according to God's eternal character and Law.