

Sunday Morning Worship Feb 22

Feb 28, 2026

Summary

Is God Fair? Understanding God's Justice in Suffering

Scripture References

Job 34; Romans 3:21-31; Psalm 34:8; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalm 139:12; Exodus 34:6-7; Matthew 7:24-27

Introduction

- The congregation is walking through the book of Job.
- Today's focus: Elihu's speech in Job 34, where he answers Job's charge that God is “not fair.”
- Musical worship highlighted God's holiness, the gospel mystery, and grace—preparing hearts to consider divine justice.
- Purpose: re-train our minds to see suffering through God's sovereignty rather than human assumptions.

Key Points / Exposition

1. Job's Complaint: “God Is Not Fair”

- Four claims Elihu summarises (vv. 5-6):
 1. “I am in the right.”
 2. “God has taken away my right.”
 3. “In spite of my right, I'm counted a liar.”
 4. “My wound is incurable though I'm without transgression.”
- Root issue: self-justification born from limited human perspective.
- When prosperity vanished, Job concluded God had become unjust.
- This echoes mankind's perennial cry since Eden: “God withholds good; He's unfair.”

2. Elihu's Rebuttal: The Character of God (vv. 10-30)

- Foundational presupposition: “Far be it from God to do wickedness” (v. 10).
 - God's nature = perfectly righteous; therefore His actions cannot be evil.

- Divine Moral Government (v. 11)
 - God repays according to deeds, yet His repayment is wrapped in mercy, seen fully at the cross.
- Sovereign Freedom (v. 13)
 - No one appointed God; He owes no creature an explanation.
- Omniscience & Impartiality (vv. 21-23)
 - No darkness hides sin; princes and paupers are judged alike.
- Swift or Patient Justice (vv. 20, 25)
 - God may act suddenly or delay—both are righteous.
- If God withdrew His breath (vv. 14-15), all would return to dust—underscoring sheer dependence on sovereign grace.

3. The Call to Repentance (vv. 31-37)

- Proper human response: acknowledge punishment, cease offending, ask to be taught (v. 32).
- God will not amend justice “to suit you” (v. 33).
- Elihu pleads urgently: Repent before accusing the only refuge of injustice.

Major Lessons & Revelations

- God's justice flows from His very being; questioning it exposes our ignorance, not His deficiency.
- All humanity deserves wrath; any breath, blessing, or delay of judgment is mercy.
- Substitutionary atonement hinted in Job 33 finds fulfillment in Christ—the only way God remains “just and justifier” (Rom 3).
- True wisdom begins with fearing the Lord, not scrutinising Him in a courtroom of human logic.
- Repentance is the Spirit-enabled doorway to restored perspective and hope.

Practical Application

1. Examine presuppositions: filter every complaint through God's revealed character.
2. Cultivate trust: memorise Proverbs 3:5-6; submit understanding to His higher ways (Isa 55).
3. Stay in community: suffering isolates; lean into church, prayer, Scripture—God's means of grace.
4. Practice repentance daily; quickly confess when self-righteousness surfaces.
5. Declare the gospel to yourself and others: Christ bore infinite justice so we receive infinite mercy.

Conclusion & Call to Response

Elihu shows that if God were truly unjust, no refuge would remain. Because God is perfectly fair and merciful, the only fitting response is humble repentance and deeper trust. Whether in blessing or affliction, believers are urged to worship the sovereign, holy, and gracious God who secured our righteousness in Jesus Christ.

Prayer

“Lord, Your word is living and active. Thank You that You speak truth even when we cannot trace Your reasons. Breathe repentance into our hearts, reshape our thinking, and anchor us in Your justice and mercy revealed at the cross. May every trial drive us nearer to You and form us into Christ's likeness. Amen.”

References & Resources

- Hymns/Songs: “Only a Holy God,” “Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery,” “In Christ Alone,” “Grace Greater Than Our Sin,” “The Doxology.”
- Book Study Groups: Ladies—Mondays 6:30 p.m.; Men—Sundays 4 p.m. (read chs. 1–2).