

Justice & Mercy 4: God's compassion re:injustice (Ps 116) Go4th

'I love the Lord for he heard my voice...' – the opening words of this beautiful psalm I suspect form the cry of many of us.

Especially important in times of trouble – so often come back to the psalms with their honesty and openness and find words of comfort – perhaps even pray them directly.

Psalm 116 reminds us that our God is a compassionate God – compassion is at the heart of who He is: READ v5

When he or she was in trouble, it was God's compassion the Psalmist felt, it was God's compassion the Psalmist relied on.

We don't know what the life-threatening circumstance was which afflicted the Psalmist – may have been an illness, may have been injustice: clues 'unwary, brought low' v6, 'everyone is a liar' v11

God's compassion is a very personal thing for many of us – we need it, we claim it for ourselves in times of trouble. But today we also remind ourselves of a broader canvas. God feels compassion towards injustice wherever we see it in our world. If our Psalmist was indeed a victim of injustice, God feels it.

And this idea of God's compassion for victims of injustice is a theme we come back to repeatedly in our series on justice and mercy. We celebrate God's compassion for us – but also for the whole world.

Next week is harvest, and we'll be looking at theme of justice for creation. Today we're having some fun making plastic sculptures, but the message is serious – our misuse of the world's resources is a form of injustice against our world. In this season of harvest, we remind ourselves that God feels compassion for His creation, too.

'I love the Lord, for he heard my voice, he heard my cry for mercy.'

- May that be our prayer for ourselves.
- May it be our prayer for those who suffer injustice anywhere in our world.
- And may it also be our prayer for creation itself.

'The Lord is gracious and righteous. Our God is full of compassion.'
Amen.