



**Sermon series:** A Name Like No Other

**To be used with Session 5:** The Righteousness God's Name

**Sermon Possibilities:** No Righteousness Without God

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 23:5-6; Romans 3:10b-13, 21-26

**Connection To Unit Theme:** To complement the Bible study a name like no other, this sermon will identify the true source of righteousness. Goodness, integrity, morality, and decency are all attached to God's name. Our understanding and concept of right and wrong are dependent on God. Even those who claim not to believe in God govern their lives and actions by some concept of right and wrong. While there are all kinds of religions, philosophies, and views to justify people's actions, no name is more attached to righteousness than the name of the Lord. This only further emphasizes why He has a name like no other.

**Introduction:** I recently heard a debate between a Christian and a skeptic, in which the skeptic made the claim that people shouldn't do things out of devotion to their religion or because God told them to, but rather because they are "the right thing to do." The Christian responded by asking the skeptic, "Who determines what is right? What makes something right? Some people think racism is right. Some people think sexism is right. Some people think it's right to take guns and shoot up schools, churches, movie theaters, and stores. So, if something is the "right thing to do," under whose authority is that distinction made?" The skeptic had no reply. As we examine the texts in Jeremiah and Romans, we see the clear point being made that true righteousness does not exist apart from God. Righteousness is not based on exterior factors or flailing opinions. Righteousness simply comes down to "What does God say about this? If God says it is right, it is right. Likewise, if God says it is wrong, then so should we. Our views should mirror the views of our God, hence what Paul says in Ephesians 5:1, *"Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children."*

### **1. The King of Righteousness is Coming (Jeremiah 23:5-6).**

One of the most exciting aspects about going to the movies are the previews that play before the movie begins. Whether it be the sequel to a beloved movie we've seen, or the introduction of an entirely new film altogether, previews have an innate ability to create a level of excitement, expectancy, and anticipation within an audience. The objective behind the previews is to get the audience so excited that they leave the theater wanting nothing more than to see that movie that was advertised. They want the preview to make such an impression on people that the promise of the movie being released drives them to want to see it.

In chapter 23, the prophet Jeremiah reveals God's promise that the King of Righteousness was on the way. Someone who would change the world as they knew it and create an atmosphere that no one had ever known, experienced, or even imagined. Verses 5-6 provide a sneak peek at who was on the way, along with what He would do once He arrived. Additionally, the promise is made that "*Judah will be saved, and Israel shall dwell securely*" (v.5). Notice how the promise is made for the future, and the people who are hearing this promise in real time won't live to see the promise manifest. This will be a promise that their descendants will benefit from. Verse 6 says, "*In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will securely.*" meaning this is a movie that you won't get to see live, but your descendants will be in good hands. In other words, some promises are for now, while others are for the future!

## **2. Doomed without the King (Romans 3:10b-13).**

A car is doomed without gas. Human lungs are doomed without air. A tire is doomed without air. A heart is doomed without blood. The point is that there are certain things that cannot function or survive without other things. There are essential items that keep other things going, otherwise those things are doomed. Paul uses several Old Testament references to convey the dangerous state that the people are in due to the dominion of sin. He makes it clear that if that sin prevails, the people will be doomed, because that sin is turning them away from God. So, this text serves as a warning to the Roman church that they are doomed without the Lord. God is our only hope of redemption. Despite the sin that prevails in our lives and the bad choices that we make, God is still able to redeem us and remove our sin through the blood of Jesus. However, we must submit to Him and His will. We cannot honor our will and His at the same time. God is and will forever be our essential element.

## **3. I Had No Hope Until the King Arrived (Romans 3:21-26).**

There's nothing like that feeling we have when we're in trouble and help arrives. In a likewise manner, all of us were in trouble before Jesus came. All of humanity was doomed to eternal death due to our sin, but since God sent His only son to take our place, we now have hope. As our text in Romans 3 reminds us, "*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*," which means ALL of us deserved eternal damnation. but God! God decided to give us another chance. God decided to give us another option.

**Conclusion:** Going back to the Christian and the skeptic. debating about who/what determines what's right? The skeptic had absolutely no answer to the Christian's question. After a long awkward pause, the skeptic hung his head and said, "I don't know what's right." The Christian reassures the skeptic, "You may not know what's right, but there is somebody who does. Let me tell you about Him." Whether we know what's right and choose not to do it or we don't know what's right at all, there is somebody who is able to help us. There is someone who will lead and guide us unto all truth. God is our righteousness. There is no right direction without God. There is no right answer without God. There is no right without God.

