

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

There are several places in Scripture that speak of God's abhorrence of "dishonest scales." Reflective of the fact that we are made in His image, there is something within us that also cries out at the sight of injustice; we long to find the place where life is fair.

Through the prophet Micah, the LORD inquired of Israel, "Am I still to forget, O wicked house, your ill-gotten treasures and the short ephah, which is accursed? Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights?" (Micah 6:10-11).

This is not only about economic injustice, but applies to all forms of injustice. The principle is that we are to treat all people the same, not giving some greater preference than others, such as exemptions or privileges. To our condemnation, our society is plagued with injustice.

Dishonest dealings make a mockery of the one who set the values. The cry of the prophet for justice is the cry of the God who is just. And God who is just demands a careful commitment to all that God values: "You shall not have in your bag differing weights, a large and a small. You shall not have in your house differing measures, a large and a small. You shall have a full and just weight; you shall have a full and just measure, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you" (Deuteronomy 25:13-15).

Moreover, God who is just not only calls for justice in our dealings with others, but in our dealings with Himself. Here, God himself, declares that we ourselves have been weighed on scales and found wanting. He declares that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). But it is Christ's death that somehow balances the scales. He became a man, lived a sinless life and then died in our place enabling him to apply his righteousness to us. As the apostle Peter writes, "Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that he might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:18). In Christ the scales are balanced. The only thing Jesus is asking of us is that we repent of our sin and ask him to make us holy.