

# JUSTICE & MERCY

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**WARM UP QUESTION:** Have you ever had your favorite team win against the odds? What were your thoughts toward the losing team afterward?

**READ:** Obadiah

**FOCUS:** God's plan must shape our response to the events of our day.

**OBSERVE:**

- Obadiah exposes God's judgment against Edom, revealing that their core sin is pride. Pride is deceptive—it blinds you to the truth, distorting reality. It leads you to see yourself as a victim, even when you aren't, and convinces you that you deserve things that you do not.
- Pride hides the warning signs of coming danger. Pride causes us to exalt ourselves, our political party, church doctrine, ethnicity and nation.
- Obadiah ends with a hopeful prophecy: Judgment is a merciful means to remove sin and bring about restoration.

**REFLECT:**

- How can we be agents of restoration in our society, especially after the recent elections?
- We can pray for God to revive His church and bring an awakening to His world.
- We can invite God into our government and nation. Government might discourage evil, but it won't change hearts. Pray that God changes the hearts of government leaders.
- We can be loving and merciful, not gloating, but encouraging others about God's plan, showing and sharing the gospel as we serve God in our everyday situations.

**TAKE ACTION:**

- Pray for our new governmental leaders. Invite the King of the universe to intervene nationally, state-wide and locally.
- Listen carefully to others, especially those whose candidates lost the election.
- Acknowledge that their hearts are hurting and show them love and compassion. In your words and actions, bring reconciliation rather than division.

**PRAY:** *Father God, You are supreme! You are the Creator and Ruler of all things. Open our eyes and minds to understand the times and our role in them. Help us to align ourselves with only Your plans. In Jesus' Name, Amen!*