

👉 It's a given that some judges in the American legal system are more severe than others. But Circuit Judge Daniel Rozak from Will County, Illinois may be the only federal judge who has sentenced a man to prison because of a yawn. That's right in August of 2009, Clifton Williams was attending the hearing of his cousin in a Joliet courtroom. His cousin pled guilty to a felony drug charge, and when Judge Rozak delivered a sentence of two years' probation, Mr. Williams let loose the incriminating yawn. Judge Rozak noticed, later describing the incident by saying that Williams "raised his hands while at the same time making a loud yawning sound." The judge decided that this was a disrespectful interruption of the court, and sentenced Williams to six months in jail, the maximum penalty for contempt of court without a jury trial. This isn't the first time that Judge Rozak has flexed his judicial muscles. A Chicago Tribune investigation revealed that Rozak has charged several court spectators with contempt when their cell phones rang in the middle of a session. In fact, with 30 judges operating in his Judicial Circuit, Judge Rozak has brought more than a third of all the contempt charges filed in the past 10 years. People like Daniel Rozak are the reason why some people cringe when they hear God described as a Judge. They wonder, will God judge me with fairness? There is something in all of us, in the worst of us, that loves justice, its apart of our DNA, one of many things that we still retain in our being made in the image of God.

1. God loves Justice, Micah 6:8. Jesus longs for Justice in the world, Luke 12:49, these are the fires of justice burning, Matthew 3:11-12 and Matthew 13:30. Justice requires a separation. Jesus is the Savior, the full expression of God's love for us, **John 3:16**. But what about those who do not receive Him? Justice requires a clear demarcation between those who do right and those who wrong, those who are His and those who are not. If the righteous are being treated like the unrighteous and the unrighteous have the same privileges as the righteous, can you see that isn't justice? Can you understand how He would want justice to come?

- ✓ At 2:25 A.M. on February 17, 2003, a fight erupted on the second floor of the E2 nightclub in Chicago's South Side. When security personnel arrived, they used pepper spray to break up the brawls. The fumes from the spray set off a rush down the front stairwell. In the panic, 21 people were crushed to death or asphyxiated at the bottom of the stairs. Witnesses said the stack of bodies reached nearly six feet high. It was the worst nightclub calamity in Chicago's history. On the 10th anniversary of the tragedy, the Chicago Tribune ran a story about Howard Ray Sr., the 68-year-old father of DaShand Ray, a young man studying broadcast journalism who got crushed to death that night. It's clear that someone, or more likely, a whole bunch of people were at fault. The club owners allowed five times too many people inside the club. A rear exit was locked. The city of Chicago failed to enforce building code violations. The DJ working that night incited security guards to use the pepper spray. But even ten years later, Howard Ray Sr. is outraged that no one has been held accountable for a preventable catastrophe. He is still seeking what he calls "real justice." Over the past ten years, Mr. Ray has educated himself on tort law, building codes, and criminal negligence. He has built a website to share information on the tragedy. And he continues to plead with officials to reinvestigate the details. When people suggest that he should just drop his quest for justice and move on, Howard Ray Sr. said, "My son loved me. He trusted me. I can't stop until there's real justice done, if I didn't want justice what kind of father would I be?" Possible Preaching Angles, the Love and Justice of God. Like Howard Ray Sr. our Heavenly Father is motivated by love and justice. If God didn't want "real justice," what kind of Father would he be?
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2. Our unholiness longs for Justice, can we possibly imagine how holiness must feel about it all? Living in His universe, His earth, breathing His air, eating His food, living in His borrowed time and then using it all as cannon fodder to blaspheme His name! Can you imagine? How badly must He want things to be set right! But there is something that He wants even more, for us not to be on the wrong side of that: Luke 12:50. Before anything or anyone is immersed in the fires of God's Justice, God Himself was. "How distressed I am until it is accomplished" In the Garden of Gethsemane His distress was so high that He sweated blood. That's blood pressure and tension that is off the charts, but it wasn't just in Garden that He was sweating what was coming. The Bible is very explicit about what that immersion into our justice was for Him, Isaiah 53:4-6, that's our punishment, our justice He's took.

So, we live in this era of God's forgiveness and peace, but it's not unconditional, Isaiah 9:6, the prince of Peace but if He's not your king?, Ephesians 2:17. He came and preached peace but what if you don't listen? Luke 12:54-56, one of the dumbest animals in world is (right up there with sheep) is a domesticated turkey who will stand in the yard with their nose in the air and drown during a rainstorm. Don't have sense enough to come in out of the rain? Luke 12:57-59, consider the charges Romans 3:23; consider the evidence Luke 13:2-4.
