

Is There Unrighteousness With God?

Romans 9:14~16, Moses

In verse 14, Paul asks, *Is there unrighteousness with God?* Is God Unjust? Is there any unfairness in Him? It is a question that “*questions*” God as to whether something He does is “*Right or not.*” Taken by itself, it’s hard to imagine ever questioning the “*Rightness*” of what God does. What a ridiculous thought, we might even go so far as to say that’s on the verge of “*Blasphemy.*” But when you consider how this question came about, you’ll at least understand why it was asked. And chances are, you too might even ask the question. This question surfaces as a result of what Paul said in verses 10~13.

¹⁰*And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; ¹¹(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calls) ¹²It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. ¹³As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

God Blessed Jacob, and rejected Esau before they were even born. It naturally causes the “*question of the fairness*” of that to arise in one’s heart.

¹⁴*What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? How can that be fair...right?*

Knowing that God simply picked Jacob over Esau without “any consideration” of their “*goodness,*” or the kind of life they lived, is somewhat troubling isn’t it?

How is it fair that Jacob was blessed of God, while God rejected Esau before he was even born? Is it “*fair*” of God to reject Esau without even considering the kind of man he was?

If you understand the truth that Paul is declaring about God here, it should naturally cause you to be troubled. And God knew it would, that’s why Paul poses this question. God knew the difficulty and struggles that man would have with this revelation of Himself. That fact that “*God Chooses*” whom He will.

Isn’t that unfair? Paul answers with a clear, resounding...NO! ²God forbid: ABSOLUTELY NOT! There’s not the “*slightest possibility*”... It is impossible! It conveys the idea, there is not even the “*slightest hint*” of yes in there! It’s the total absence of Yes, and pure no!

But even so, that just doesn’t seem right! You could argue from both standpoints.

What did Esau “*do*” to be rejected by God? We could better understand and even accept the idea of God rejecting someone who’d lived a life of debauchery. Someone who, lets just say, lived anything but a godly life, we have no problems with God rejecting. Even though we hate it, at least it makes sense. But that’s not the case at all for Esau. He was rejected by God before he was even born!

You could also argue the other side...What did Jacob “do” to be accepted by God?

Its not hard to accept the notion that someone who was a “*good person*” and “*went to church*” most their life, its not hard to conceive the notion that when they die, they go to heaven. As a matter of fact, I would venture to say that a large number of people feel that just “*being a good person*” warrants heaven.

It’s that kind of thinking, that causes us to struggle with what Paul is talking about here. The reason we have trouble with “*Election*” is that fact that we “**THINK**” this way. “*Man’s natural way of thinking*” is that God shows mercy on “*those who live right,*” and punishes those who “*live wickedly.*”

It is that kind of “**THINKING**” that gives birth to the “*Fairness of God’s Election.*”

But the truth is, those things don't factor in at all. Whether a man is "*accepted*" or "*rejected*" depends SOLELY on the MERCY of God! Nothing else! That's what Paul declares in verses 15~16.

¹⁵*For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.* ¹⁶*So then it is not of him that wills, nor of him that runs, but of God that shows mercy.*

Whether or not **God accepts any man**, is SOLELY DEPENDENT on HIS MERCY!

We need to make sure, that we fully understand this truth... It cannot be "*earned*," nor is it "*deserved*." There's NOTHING we can do! There is nothing else that is factored into the equation. That's the "**LESSON**" of Esau and Jacob! If you miss that, you've missed the whole point. Esau wasn't rejected because he was wicked, nor was Jacob blessed because he was such a good man. Those things never came into play at all.

The only factor was God, that he chose to *show mercy* on Jacob, and *withhold mercy* from Esau. There is absolutely nothing else considered there! Its hard to misunderstand there that "*Man's so-called righteous living*" inherits God's blessing. There's no way to mistake that it does not, Jacob hadn't even been born yet. The only thing that could be derived from that story is that Jacob was blessed SOLELY by the MERCY of God.

Again, Paul points to the scripture to validate what he is saying is true...

(Vs 15~16) He uses Moses & Israel to Illustrate God's *giving* of Mercy...

(Vs 17~18) He uses Pharaoh & Egypt to Illustrate God's *withholding* of Mercy...

¹⁵*For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.*

It's important to understand the context that this was spoken in...

(Exodus 32) Israel's *Golden Calf*... Leading up to this scripture Paul is referring too, was the matter of Israel's making and worshipping of the "*golden calf*" at the foot of Mt. Sinai. While Moses was up on the mount receiving the "*Law*" from God, Israel became impatient and made a "*golden calf*" and had a feast, a celebration.

(Vs 7~10) God became furious with Israel!

⁹*And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: ¹⁰Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and **that I may consume them**: and I will make of thee a great nation.*

God was prepared to "*Consume*" every one of them in his ANGER!

He would just start over with Moses. (...*and I will make of thee a great nation.*) If you remember, God had done just that with Noah... He and his family were the only ones spared on the face of the earth.

(Vs 11~14) Moses intercedes for Israel, and pleads to God for MERCY!

(Vs 15~24) Moses returns to the camp, sees the idolatry and becomes furious...

- He drops the tables of stone and they brake...
- He destroys the golden calf (Burned it, ground into powder, spread over water, and made them drink)
- Confronts Aaron for leading the people in sin...

(Vs 25~29) Moses calls for a separation (*Lord's side*)

- Orders Levites to slay all who opposes...

(Vs 30~35) Moses Pleads for Israel (*Blot me out of your book*)

(Chapter 33:1~11) God instructs Moses to take Israel and move out...

- (Vs 1~6) Commands to leave all ornaments there...
- (Vs 7~10) The Tabernacle is set up *outside the camp*... (**Sin had separated them**)
- (Vs 11) Moses goes to Tabernacle and communes with God... (face to face)
- (Vs 13) Moses pleads with God to go with them... "*If you don't go with us, let us stay here*"
- Go honors Moses' request, and affirms he will go with them...

(Vs 18) Moses asked God, if he could see him... To which the Lord agrees, and makes the statement that Paul pointed to in Romans 9:15, to support his claims of the righteousness of Gods election.

¹⁹And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

In other words, His sparing the people and continuing to guide and protect them was purely reflective of His mercy and grace. Concerning the golden calf, all the people, the whole nation deserved to be killed! God could have wiped them out, and been completely "*Just & Righteous*" for doing so! No one "*deserved*" to be spared! But God showed Mercy on some, while He poured out his Judgment on the others. Point is, if it had not been for Gods "*choosing*" to show mercy, if it had not been for the "*election*" of God to give mercy to part of Israel, they would have all been wiped out that day!

You see...the reason we "See" Election, God's choosing as kind of unfair, is the fact that we "think" we DESERVE God's blessing, by the way we live. Truth is...NO ONE DOES! All of us are utterly guilty before God and the only thing we deserve is "*His Judgment, His Wrath!*"

No one "*Deserves*" God's Mercy... And because all men are sinful and deserve God's condemnation, no person is wronged or treated unjustly if God chooses to condemn them!

If you "*THINK*" that God was being "*unfair*" in blessing Jacob...*in one sense your right*. Because truth is, BOTH should have been condemned! Anyone who wants to argue the unfairness of "*God's Election*," anyone who wants to complain that it's not right, needs to understand, that if God did not ELECT to show mercy...then NO ONE would be saved! All would die under His Judgment!

Is God unrighteous to show Mercy on whomever he chooses? God forbid! Far from being "*Unrighteous*" in choosing to bless Jacob and condemn Esau, God manifested "*His Righteousness!*" Both should have been condemned! Neither one would ever deserve God's blessing. If it were not for the "*righteousness of God*," NO ONE would be spared! That God would choose to spare some is unbelievable! For none "*deserved to live!*" By choosing to show mercy on some, exhibits not only that he is righteous, but also that he is merciful and good...longsuffering.

(Vs 18~23) Are very interesting...God promises to reveal "*His Glory*" to Moses...

The "*Key*" here is...*that Moses asked God to see his glory*...

¹⁸And he said, I beseech thee, show me thy glory. ¹⁹And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.

God say's, you want to see me...you shall. Now you won't be able to see "ME", because no one can look upon me and live. But you will see me Moses.

Look at what he says... "*I will make my goodness pass before you...*"
Moses, you will see my goodness right before your very eyes.

"*I will make known to you WHO I AM... I am a gracious God, one full of mercy...*"
Moses would SEE the "*Glory of God*" through SEEING the "*Mercy of God.*"

The "*Glory of God,*" the "*Righteousness of God,*" is displayed in *God's Mercy!*
That God would show MERCY on a "*Stiffnecked*" people is amazing!

P: ¹⁶So then it is not of him that wills, nor of him that runs... (*its got nothing to do with you*)
... but of God that shows mercy.

Point is... There's NOTHING we can do, we are totally dependent on God *showing mercy*.
Listen, its extremely important to get this. Not of "*him that wills*" or "*him that runs...*" Whether a man sets "*his mind*" to serve God, if a man "*pursues*" to serve the Lord, neither makes him any better. It's not attained by any form of human effort...it only comes by the mercy of God.

T: Bottom line... *The only "hope" any of us have, is that God would have mercy on us!*