



Don't Question God's Justice

ROMANS 9: 14 – 18

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SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 9: 14 - 18

¹⁴ What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth.” ¹⁸ So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

A Dangerous Question. V. 14.

- ▶ If God's sovereign choice has no reflection on human choice, can He be unjust?
 - ▶ μή γένοιτο, No way – how can you begin to think it?
 - ▶ God is the measure of justice and righteousness.
 - ▶ If God is unjust, there is no real or true justice.
- ▶ We do have a tension here that we cannot fully answer with all our human logic.
 - ▶ Clearly we learn here that God chooses as He wills.
 - ▶ At the same time Scripture clearly declares salvation is available to all who will believe on Jesus Christ.

God's Mercy Vv. 15 – 16.

- ▶ Paul refers to Exodus 33:19.
 - ▶ Israel sinned with calf worship.
 - ▶ Moses intercedes even offering His own salvation.
 - ▶ God's response is to show mercy to whom He will.
 - ▶ Three thousand died, but the rest were spared in God's mercy and compassion.
- ▶ "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."
 - ▶ Not dependent on what people do or how hard they attempt to receive it.

God's Justice. Vv. 17 - 18

- ▶ Paul refers to Exodus 9: 16.
 - ▶ Pharaoh was raised to the position by God.
 - ▶ He was ungodly and wicked even though he heard directly from God's messenger, Moses.
 - ▶ Due to his stubborn insistence in sin God is noted as hardening his heart.
 - ▶ Such hardening may best be understood as giving him over without further restraining to what he was going to do. (cf. Romans 1: 24, 26, 28).
- ▶ "So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires."

Conclusion

- ▶ God is the model of all righteousness and justice and there will never be unrighteousness or injustice in Him.
- ▶ It would be blasphemous to accuse God of such.
- ▶ God is sovereign and can choose to be merciful as He chooses and praise God we see it.
- ▶ God is sovereign and can choose to “harden” hearts that prove determined to reject Him.
- ▶ In this tension we will never satisfy all our questions.