



Is God Merciful or Mean?

Sunday, Oct 3rd, 2021

Text: Romans 9:13-29

Matthew 26:26-29

- ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”
- ¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means!
- 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 depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
Romans 9:13-16

Is God a Hater? (vs. 13) c.f. Matthew 8:10-12; John 3:16; Romans 3:11-12, 23

μισέω *miseō* verb - Hate, detest, abhor, prefer against.

When God said “Jacob I loved, but Esau I *hated*” ([Malachi 1:3](#); [Romans 9:13](#)), or when Jesus stated we must “hate” our family in order to follow Him ([Luke 14:26](#)), the idea of the term conveyed is “to prefer one over the other,” not “to hate” in a literal sense.

Is God Unjust? (vs. 14-18) c.f. Exodus 33:19; 1 Samuel 6:6; Prov 28:13-14; 29:26-27

Is God A Fault Finder? (vs. 19-24) c.f. Job 40:2; Jeremiah 18:1-6; Matt 20:1-16

- 3 So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel.
- 4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.**
Jeremiah 18:3-4

Is God Merciful? (25-29)

Parables on the wrath and mercy of God: Matthew 21:33-41 (Leased Vineyard)
Matthew 22:1-14 (Wedding Feast)
Matthew 25:14-20 (Workers Given Talents)

The Final Judgment: Matthew 25:31-46



Study and Discussion Questions – Is God Merciful or Mean?

Romans 9:13-29

Open It

1. When have you felt that you were judged unfairly in a contest?
2. When have you witnessed, or experienced, a healthy anger? How about unmerited mercy?

Explore It

2. *How did Paul defend the accusation that God is unjust in His treatment of people? ([9:14-15](#))
3. *What determines how God bestows favor on people? ([9:16](#))
4. What examples from history did Paul use to demonstrate God's choice of blessing? ([9:17-18](#))
5. What right do we have to question God? ([9:19-21](#))
6. Why does God show great patience with us even though we deserve His wrath? ([9:22-24](#))
7. What did the prophets Isaiah and Hosea tell us about God's patience and justice? ([9:25-29](#))

Get It

8. What's wrong with depending on a religious background or heritage for favor with God?
9. Why do we tend to question God's actions toward us or anyone else?
10. What does this passage teach us about God's character?
11. What are some warning signs of developing hardness of heart?
12. How many of your questions and concerns about God are genuine?
How many are smokescreens that keep you from delving deeper with God?
13. How have you experienced God's mercy and patience in your life?

Apply It

14. How does this passage make you more grateful that you are saved?
15. What warning signs of developing a hardness of heart do you need to take notice of?
What steps can you take to assure the health of your heart?
16. How will you let the truth of God's sovereignty and our personal responsibility impact your daily living?