



## MERCY! For the Fame of His Name • Part 1

Lesson 9

### “That’s Not Fair!”

We tend to want choices to be made on what we think we deserve (**MERCY!**) or what others deserve (**JUSTICE!**)!

Parable of the Workers ~ Matthew 20:1-16

### The Crucial Question that Romans 9-11 Answers

Has God's Word—His saving promises to Israel—failed, in light of the fact that so many Jews have rejected Christ and are doomed to eternal punishment?

### How Does the Answer Unfold?

**Q1 Has God's Word failed?** (9:6)

**Answer:** NO! God's promise of salvation is **rooted** in God's sovereign unconditional choice. (9:6-13)

**Q2 Is God unfair in choosing unconditionally?** (9:14)

**Answer:** NO! Unconditional election **reflects** the perfection of God's character in all of its fullness. (9:15-18)

### Unconditional Election as Revealed in the Bible Raises Three Basic OBJECTIONS in Our Human Reasoning

- The question of **FAIRNESS** (v. 14)
- The question of **FATE / FATALISM** (v. 19)
- The question of **FAITH / FREE WILL** (vv. 30-33; 10:1-21)

### These Objections Are to Be EXPECTED Whenever Unconditional Election Is Taught, because...

- It is a doctrine God must **REVEAL** to His people.
- It is a doctrine our flesh will always **REBEL** against.
- It is a doctrine that many **REFUSE** to address.

### Outlining the Passage Is Easy, but Understanding Its Meaning Is HARD!

1. The **OBJECTION**: “What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part?” (v. 14a)
2. The **CORRECTION**: “By no means!” (v. 14b)
3. The **EXPLANATIONS & CONCLUSIONS** (vv. 15-18)

**1st Explanation** (v. 15) “**FOR** He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy.’”

**1st Conclusion** (v. 16) “**SO THEN** it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.”

**2nd Explanation** (v. 17) “**FOR** the Scripture says to Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’”

**2nd Conclusion** (v. 18) “**SO THEN** he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.”

## Why God Is Not Unjust to Unconditionally Choose Some to Be Saved by Grace through Faith in Christ?

### 1. The Objection (v. 14a)

“What shall we say then?” (Romans 6:1-2; 7:7; 3:5)

“There is no injustice with God, is there?” NAS (Deuteronomy 32:4; 2Chronicles 19:7; Psalms 92:15)

- **WHAT** is it that God has done that appears to be not right or not fair or not just? (vv. 6, 11)
- **WHAT** is the standard of righteous, justice, and fairness? (*Romans 3:23; 1:18; 2:8; 3:5-8*)

**God's standard of righteousness is His own revelation of Himself—  
His own name (= His character) and fame (= His glory)!**

## 2. The Correction (v. 14b)

*"By no means!"*

One of God's most basic characteristics is **HIS FREEDOM** to **SHOW MERCY** on **WHOMEVER HE CHOOSES** and **HE CHOOSES TO DO SO TO THOUSANDS OF UNDESERVING SINNERS!**