

# God's Mercy - Romans 9

## SERMON NOTES

### I. Coming Out of Romans 8

- Best news ever!
- The big picture (Romans 9:1-5)
- Good news for me must be good news for those in my life. Consider what you're willing to do to share the gospel with people.

### II. Has God Failed? (Romans 9:6-8)

- The promise
- Beneficiary vs bearer
  - Israel had missed the point of the promise and therefore ended up missing the Son who was the true fulfillment of the promise.
  - Is the gospel "good news for us to bring to others," or just "good news for us"?

### III. Is God Unjust? (Romans 9:11-18)

- Jacob and Esau, Moses and Pharaoh
- It is not unjust for God to show mercy to those who are undeserving, and it is also not unjust for God to harden those who harden themselves.
- God's mercy and judgment are compatible with justice.

### IV. Shifting Blame (Romans 9:19-29)

- Why are we on the hook?
- Rebuke vs sincere questions
- We must have a better picture of God's character, his purposes, and his justice.

### V. So What? (Romans 9:30-33)

- The Jews who pursued righteousness never obtained it, and Gentiles who did not pursue it laid hold of it.
- "I'm beloved by God" and "I have nothing to offer."
- God has laid a rock down before all of us and we each must decide what to do about it.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Sharing Life Together

1. Besides the gospel, what is some of the best news you have ever received?
  - a. Why is the gospel better news?
2. In your own words, what does God's mercy mean to you?

### Reflecting on the Message Together

1. Paul was lamenting over his fellow brothers and sisters who had not embraced the gospel. His lamenting caused him to follow in Christ's footsteps, desiring to be "cut off" that his people might be saved. He did indeed follow this as his life sent him to Rome that he might continue to share the gospel. What can you learn from Paul's example? What lengths are you willing to go to so that people who don't know Jesus might come to know him?
2. Have you ever felt like God has failed? Share a time when you really struggled to trust his faithfulness.
3. Ben said that God is our benefactor and that we can be either beneficiaries or bearers of the blessing. What does it look like in your life to be a bearer of the blessing to others?
4. What do you make of the statement that it is not unjust for God to show mercy to those who are underserving and it is also not unjust for God to harden those who harden themselves?
5. Are you ever perplexed, in awe, or filled with wonder that God offers us mercy at all? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever felt like rebuking God?
  - a. What is a sincere question you have for God?
7. How are you tempted to make what you DO your reason for righteousness?
8. Share how you relate to the statements below:
  - a. I am beloved of God
  - b. I have nothing to offer
9. What are you doing with the rock laid before you that is Jesus?