

Sorry, Not Sorry

PART 2: YOUR BAD

INTRODUCTION

We have all experienced being wronged or having someone hurt us—sometimes deeply. In those moments we want punishment for them and justice for us. But does justice right the wrong? Does seeing them get what they deserve make everything better? Is that how God thinks about our “bad behavior”, or does he see us through a different lens than the lens of justice?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you were wronged in traffic? How did you react? What was the result?
2. *Mercy* was defined as “not getting what you deserve,” and *grace* as “getting what you don’t deserve.” Do you agree with these definitions? Would you change them? If so how? How have you experienced mercy and grace in your life from other people?
3. When someone wrongs us and we are hurt, we want to see them “get what they deserve.” While we wait for justice to be served, we find ourselves holding onto anger, bitterness, resentment, and other negative emotions. Why do we hold on to these emotions when we think we’ve been wronged? What does it take for us to release them? How can we loosen the grip of these emotions on us?
4. **Read Romans 2:1-4.**
Is Paul saying that we should not judge or that we should keep our judgement in the proper perspective?
5. According to verse 4, God has been kind, tolerant and patient towards us. How should the way we’ve been treated by God change the way we treat others? Why?
6. “God’s kindness is shown in the gap he creates for us”. What do you think he means by that statement?
7. Think of a specific person that you feel has wronged you; someone that you are angry with, frustrated by, or feel resentment towards. What emotions would you have to let go of in order to be able to show them grace and mercy? What do you think would happen if you showed them grace and mercy? What steps can you take to show them grace and mercy?

MOVING FORWARD

Our desire for justice is a very real part of who we are as human beings. We don’t like things to be unequal and we want to see the scales balanced out. If you wrong me, you should be punished. But God didn’t balance the scales on us, he got rid of them. God doesn’t take an eye for an eye, he gives mercy and grace. What would it look like for us to stop wishing and waiting for the balanced scales of justice and to start treating others the way God treated us?