
Life Isn't Fair

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The Well Church of Lewisville

Pastor Tim Vanderwater

tvanderwater@thewellchurchoflewisville.org

Overview

Life isn't fair; or it may seem that way. When we set our hearts on things that are not pre-destined for us by God, it can seem as if somehow we were cheated by life. We all learn to accept the ups and downs on the road of life, but how often do we carry resentment over unfairness?

Do you know someone where everything always seems to go right for them? They always have a great job, their kids are always perfect, money is never an issue. They never seem to have any real problems in life.

Then there are some people where nothing ever seems to go right. Something is always happening. Their life could be a reality TV show. Do you know that person?

We might look at both people in this situation and think wow! That's really unfair that one never has anything go wrong yet the other one does. Let's look at fairness from the Word of God.

Hebrews 11:32-39 [NIV]

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were

killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

As we can see in these Scriptures, some had enormous abilities to achieve great things on earth, while others were sent through the worst circumstances imaginable. Both sets of people were simply trying to be men and woman of God. Doesn't this seem totally unfair?

5 Principals of God's Fairness.

Principal # 1

(1) If you are a Christian, this world will seem unfair.

2 Corinthians 11:24-26

24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.

Can anyone relate to Paul's story?

This world could not have been any more unfair to Paul? Why is that?

It's because Christians are called to be a light in a world that does not want any light.

Hebrews 11:29 – The world was not worthy of them.

Principal #2

(2) If you are not a Christian, God's world will seem unfair

Hebrews 11:40 God had planned something better for us

Who is US in this sentence? It's those who Love the Lord! It Christians, you and I

God has something far better for those who love Him! That is not fair to those who deny the Lord.

Luke 16:19-26

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

Principal # 3

(3) Fairness is all about Perspective

If we have a narrow perspective, then life will always seem unfair!

If we broaden our perspective to include the things of God's Kingdom, then your life will no longer seem unfair to others.

In Hebrews 11:36-38, Was it fair that those with faith were

1. Jeered
2. Flogged
3. Put in Chains and imprisoned
4. Stoned to death
5. Sawed in two
6. Killed by the sword
7. Had to wear rags
8. Destitute
9. Mistreated
10. Persecuted
11. Lived in caves and holed in the ground

These people understood fairness and perspective. They knew that God is not unjust. Their faith proved that!

Verse 35 - ***There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.***

They put God's kingdom into perspective. Their sights were far bigger than the world. Their perspective included the kingdom of God!

Principal # 4

(4) God's Fairness Requires Patience

Verse 39

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,

The people of great faith mentioned in Hebrews 11, were people of the Old Testament.

They endured and went through hardships without even getting to see the promise of the Messiah. It didn't matter to them.

They knew that God would not break the promise of the coming Christ.

Paul sums this up in his letter to Pastor Titus:

Titus 1:2

in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior,

Romans 8:25

But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In Revelation 6, we get a glimpse of the people mentioned in Hebrews.

Revelation 6:9-11

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.

10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

These people were losing patience. They wanted their reward. Jesus told them to continue in their patience, that they had not been forgotten, and they would receive the kingdom of heaven. The fairness they were promised was on the way, and so is yours!

11 Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer

Principal #5

(5) God's Fairness Requires Faith

Verse **39** ***These were all commended for their faith***

Faith is putting our hope in that which we cannot see.

Romans 8:24

But hope that is seen is no hope at all

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

If we do not trust that God will even things out for you in the end, then you will feel the burdens of this world's unfairness.

Satan, the "prince of this world" (John 14:20), and he will attack your faith!

We must always pick up your "shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16) and know that God is not unjust.

Without faith, you have no defenses against the spirit of unfairness. Satan's world is not fair! He wants you to believe it is. He wants to tempt you to drop your shield of faith.

Don't give in

***like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17
Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even
though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.***

(Hebrews 12:16, NIV)

Hebrews 6:10 Tells Us:

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

We must have faith to remind us that our treasure is being stored up in heaven.

In Revelation, Jesus said

***“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown”
(Revelation 2:10)***

Hebrews 6:10-12 (NIV)

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Verse 10 – God is not unjust (or unfair)

Conclusion

God is fair! The world in which we are currently in is not. However, we are only in this world for a while. God’s justice and fairness will be served, but in the way in which he defines fairness, not how the prince of this world defines it. We must open our perspective to include the things of God and not be narrow focused on the things of this world.

The author of Hebrews writes:

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised (Hebrews 6:11-12)

We must remember the 5 principals of God's fairness:

- (1) If you are a Christian, this world will seem unfair.**
- (2) If you are not a Christian, God's world will seem unfair**
- (3) Fairness is all about Perspective**
- (4) God's Fairness Requires Patience**
- (5) God's Fairness Requires Faith**