

Romans: The Gospel

A Seed, A Rock of Offense

Romans 9:14-33

Ch. 9-11 Israel's relationship with God and the gospel - <u>last week</u>	Is Modern Israel Biblical Israel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography, ethnicity, name
It is possible to support and love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews, Israelis, the nation itself 	And at the same time, not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carte blanche condone, enable
Distinction between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's people - ethnic Hebrews • God's nation - geographic Israel • Jesus' Bride - the church 	Israel's rejection is not God's fault <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physically of the lineage • Citizen of the nation • Spiritually no relation
Their rejection doesn't mean God's promises failed If God failed Israel, church has no hope	God knows beforehand who will receive or reject <u>Rejection always a part of the plan</u>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pebble in shoe • Hit by a rock • Step on a Lego • Tripping over something not there • Watch your step • Slight mismatch in surface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bean sprouts • Seeds can lay dormant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Egyptian wheat • Thought starter • Seed money • Inception Planted a seed in mind • <u>Seed crystal</u>
What offends, sets you off, trips you up?	What inspires you, gives life, turns gears?

<p>[Pray] :14</p> <p>Recap: Jacob loved, Esau hated, Israel rejected</p> <p>Does that mean God is unrighteous? choices unjust? <u>Never!</u></p> <p>Just because we don't understand doesn't mean God is wrong</p> <p><u>God's choice would still be just even without opportunity and mercy...because He's God</u></p>	<p>Do we really want a God we can totally comprehend?</p> <p><i>Based on the rest of scripture wicked people had every chance to repent, but <u>chose</u> not to</i></p> <p><i>DG - We are in a dangerous place when we regard God's mercy towards us as our right. If God is obliged to show mercy, then it is not mercy — it is obligation. No one is ever unfair for not giving mercy.</i></p>
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<p>:15-16</p> <p>We have free will, so does God God's free will is never tainted by sin</p> <p>Our sin taints our perception of His choice</p> <p>Why does a loving God allow suffering? What about people who reject Him? Why did God allow this in my life? [really why did He do this to me]</p> <p>Mercy - mercy, help afflicted, one seeking aid</p> <p>Compassion - pity, sorrow or suffering with another, sympathy, kindness, tenderness</p>	<p>God's choice is His alone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is still just and right even when He's not merciful and compassionate • In a sense, that's the extra mile <p>Truth is, none of us deserve anything other than righteous judgment</p> <p>The only reason we don't face it is because God offered it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We didn't convince Him • He works to convince us! • How backwards
<p>:17-18</p> <p>God told Pharaoh directly his heavenly purpose</p> <p>And it's not what you've made it out to be, for yourself</p> <p><i>Faithful with what we're given</i></p> <p>Proverbs 21:1-2 - The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the hearts.</p> <p>Pharaoh's purpose? To reveal God's power & name throughout the world</p>	<p><i>We can do this the easy way, or the hard way</i></p> <p>Nebuchadnezzar (name became title, Caesar) His rise, fall, raised again - letter</p> <p>Read Daniel 4 for homework</p> <p>He did it the medium way humiliation led him to glorify God by choice</p> <p>Pharaoh, resisted and hardened himself</p> <p>World saw the god-king destroyed And glorified the real God King</p> <p><i>Don't ignore the world stage and history God uses nations and kings to reshuffle power and be glorified</i></p>

God was surely merciful and compassionate even to Pharaoh

- Time after time to repent
- God honored Pharaoh's will choice and sealed the deal

**A decision must be made
Until it's too late and made for you**

- *We cannot vacillate back and forth*
- *Looking for God, pushing him off*
- *We may push him off for the last time and not realize it until it's too late*

Last time you did something, didn't know it

It's dangerous to play when it's not a game

Like gambling, God's house always wins

:19-24

Why does God find fault if it's all just His will to begin with?

That's shortsighted simplifying of God

- We are in time, limited in scope
- He is not

He still gives opportunity (in itself is mercy) even though he knows it won't be taken

1. **Rejection of that opportunity doesn't mean God loses or is wrong**
2. **God can just as easily use your rejection as he can your acceptance**
3. **The difference is not His glory, but your blessing**

Do we really think we can correct God? He invented everything.

Homework Job 38-42

Job 38:1-5 - Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said: "Who is this who darkens counsel By words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?"

**God pulls no punches
The fact that He answers at all
and not just destroys - is mercy**

Job 40:2, 4 - "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it." ... "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

Job 42:2 - "I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

**God is not someone
to be trifled with
Yet he is overly patient with us,
compassionate, merciful**

This applies to the Jews and Gentiles (anyone not Jewish)

2 Chronicles 16:9a - "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, **to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.**"

God is looking for people to bless specially
But He does bless everyone, even His enemies

Matthew 5:44-45 - "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **"that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;** for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

The question is:

- **Are we looking for Him?**
- **Do we want His blessing?**
- **Are we fine on our own?**

Genesis 6:5-8 - Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." **But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**

God chose Noah not because Noah was perfect, but because Noah was looking to God to save him while his generation wasn't

:25-29

Hosea called to take a prostitute for a wife

Israel rejects, God's focus shifts to Gentiles (for a time, church age)

There comes a time to pack up and go when the gospel is rejected

Matthew 10:13-15 - "If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. "And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet.

"Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

Stubborn hearts and plugged ears will not be preached to forever

*a prospective husband pursuing a bride constantly rejected, no interest
he'll leave her alone, no is her answer*

If you're playing around with God, that should scare you. Sober you. It's spiritual reality
But here's hope: God's calling you

<p>Despite reject, <u>remnant saved</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus was Jewish • Jesus ministered in Israel • The disciples were Jewish <p>Diaspora Acts 8,11 <i>The church was staying put in Israel Persecution pushed the church out to the places God wanted to reach - the Gentile World</i></p> <p>God used the Roman Empire To spread the Gospel Perfect time, perfect place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, power, language • Reach entire world then and future • like Pharaoh in Egypt <p>Remnant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews still coming to the faith • Personally, not nationally • Countless Jewish people, only a handful will be saved • Heaven sadly, won't be overcrowded • "God has always dealt with a remnant" - something always remains for Him to regrow <p><i>Until fullness of Gentiles in Rom 11</i></p>	<p>God makes quick work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation 6 days • Jesus' ministry 3 years • Tribulation only 7 <p><i>Surgical strikes</i></p> <p>It'd be unrighteous for God to drag it out if He's not welcome & For his mercy to be forever Justice to not be swift</p> <p><i>Firefighter rescue, Ship sinking, Hand reach The choice must be made quickly and surely</i></p> <p>What's the problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We think we have time • And that the world won't end • Neither are true <p>You can die at any moment Jesus will come back at any moment And the world will be destroyed not long after Time ends, eternity future begins</p> <p>What do you want?</p> <p>He's left you a seed - remnant, survivor - a word, a bit of life, an option, a choice, something to grab onto</p>
<p>:30-33</p> <p>Gentiles weren't looking for God Jesus shows up and they believe No effort, just faith</p> <p><i>To the unknown God</i></p> <p>Jews, pursuing righteousness with all their work and heredity</p>	<p>Stumbled! Fell! Tripped! Because they weren't looking in faith</p> <p>They wanted to do it their own way Despite God reaching out over and over Kings, prophets, national tragedy and rescue</p> <p><i>How many 9/11s, National tragedies Rescues from the brink of total disaster And we keep hardening ourselves more and more to the gospel and Jesus</i></p>

The Gospel is an offense to:

- self righteousness
- Self reliance
- Things you worship
- Untrue beliefs
- Sinful lifestyles
- human wisdom
- Fleshly desires

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25 - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ... **For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

It is a part of God's mercy that He'll offend you to get your attention

Rather than let you keep going the wrong way unoffended

Smacked in the face by the world before getting saved

Quote about risking offending those we love and most want to reach if we want them to receive the gospel

**We shouldn't be offensive in how we say it
But it doesn't mean we never offend**

Especially in a world that is easily offended

We play around with God things

But don't ever get serious about Him

- We are offended by the kindness and goodness and mercy and compassion of God
- We like our own ideas of what God should be
- Of what righteousness is
- How easy salvation is for us, by faith
- We cut out the Bible we don't like and twist Jesus' words
- We stumble at the truth of God and embrace the lie

If you're offended by what He's said and done ...The problem is with you
Rock into a pack of dogs

If the gospel stumbles you, don't let it make you fall

Matthew 21:42-44 - Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes' ? "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. **"And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."**

Turning to Jesus does involve a measure being broken, but it results in greater healing

Like setting a bone, surgery, cleaning a wound

Rejecting him will keep things your way, and you'll be destroyed beyond repair

<p>Like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nebuchadnezzar • Pharaoh • Israel • The Church • Jacob • Esau • Noah and his generation • Cain and Abel 	<p>Which do you want? Which do you choose?</p> <p>You'll glorify God either way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In acceptance or rejection • Being made holy or being destroyed • Honored or dishonored
<p>Which will Jesus be for you? A seed? A stumbling stone?</p> <p>If you're offended by God Upset with him, Angry</p> <p>Take a step back and consider</p> <p>Is it really God who is offensive?</p>	<p>Don't you want to grow? Be healthy inside? Have real life?</p> <p>Than let the offense Whatever is tripping you up about God become a seed</p> <p>Have doubts? Bring them to him and they'll become foundation stones</p>
<p>He does not want you put to shame and judgment</p> <p>He does not want to leave you broken beyond repair</p> <p>He wants to bless you beyond imagination</p>	<p>In eternity if hell crying out why did that little seed offend you so much you ended up there</p> <p>A seed from the tree of life takes root in you, forever planted, flourishing forever</p>
<p>He is the one who should be offended by you, but instead...</p>	<p><i>I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved."</i></p>