



Romans

Right With God

God Wants Us All

Lesson Thirty-Seven

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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God Wants Us All

Today, we are going to look through a lot of verses in the eleventh chapter of Romans, 1-24. These verses have to do with what God did with Israel, and what that means to you and me. Read Romans 11:1-5. Paul's invisible questioner is back and this time he is asking about Paul's ancestors, the Jews. The questioner wants to know if God turned His back on...did He disown His chosen people...the Jews. Paul says that he is a Jew and that he should know. He wants them to remember the time of Elijah when the terrible King Ahab was led by his wife Jezebel to worship gods other than the True God.

Elijah, the prophet, was feeling sorry for himself. He thought that he was the only worshipper of the true God left in Israel. God told him that there were plenty of people around who still worshipped Jehovah. Those people are sometimes called a remnant. A remnant is like what's left when most of the shirt is gone. It is just a piece of the shirt, but it is still cloth, good cloth, out of which the shirt was made. God was saying to Isaiah that though most of Israel was worshipping Baal, the false God, there were still many people who worshipped the true God and they were the good cloth out of which God had made Israel.

Paul's point here is that even though most of Israel had rejected Jesus as the true Messiah, there were some who had asked for God's grace and were true worshippers of Jesus.

He goes on to say that since Israel as a whole had rejected Jesus, there was a wide open door for Gentiles, people who were not descendants of Abraham, to come to God in faith and have His grace. Even though that is the case, there is still hope for descendants of Abraham. All they have to do is admit, in faith, that Jesus is the Messiah, and God will save them also.

Those who rejected Jesus were blinded. This is the punishment of God for their intentional rejection of what they heard and saw in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Read Romans 11:7, 8. God didn't force them to reject Jesus, their blindness was allowed by God.

Paul uses another picture. The Gentiles were "grafted" into the tree of God's chosen people. This is not a decision by God to make everyone Jews, it is a decision by believers to join the people chosen by God for His blessing. This is not only Jews, but everyone who believes.

Read Romans 11:11. Paul is seeing good news in the bad. It is awful that God's chosen people, Israel, rejected Jesus. But, Paul says, their rejection broke down the wall that was keeping the revelation of God to the Jews alone. The rejection of Jesus by the Jews means that the Gentiles are hearing and believing the Good News. He says that this should make

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some of the Jews envious and they will come to accept Jesus as Messiah. Paul says that when this happens, it will be much more wonderful than anything in the past.

Gentiles, non-Jews, now have the blessing of the nourishment of the roots of the tree, planted in God. God chose Israel, brought them out of Egypt, gave them a homeland, and protected them over and over again. The Gentiles are now part of the chosen people of God.

But, Paul warns the Gentiles that they should not become prideful. They are branches grafted into the tree. God can remove those branches just like He did with the Jews. Arrogance has no place in the Christian life. Read Romans 11:20, 21.

Even though you may not know a lot about grafting tree limbs, you can get the picture: God is going to have a family. There is a family tree. It was the people of Israel at one time. Now, it is all of us. God wants all of us.

Scripture Memory: “And if by grace, then it no longer by works; if it were. Grace would no longer be grace.” Romans 11:6

*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To encourage the students to see God reaching out to everyone, no matter who they are.

1. This chapter is a difficult one. Your lesson writer has chosen to deal with most of this chapter in one lesson, because it gives us a unified message. Paul wants the people in Rome, many of whom must have been Jews, to understand that Christianity is not just a refurbishing of the Jewish religion, but it is the continuation of God’s revelation of Himself, begun with the Jews.
2. The Jews hearts were hardened. We should look at this as it fits into Paul’s understanding of grace. He puts two quotations from the Old Testament together here. From Deuteronomy 29:4, Paul reminds them that even though Israel saw all the miracles of their escape from Egypt and all that followed, their eyes did not convince their hearts. The quote from Isaiah 29:10 is Isaiah’s reminder to Israel that they had closed their ears to the words of the prophets. The people had had so much stimulation by the prophets, they got used to it, and just ignored what was being said. You don’t get from either quotation that God was disrespecting His people by giving them deaf ears or blind eyes, He was judging them for their lack of use of the vision and hearing that He had given them. Another take on this is found in John 12:37ff. John quotes the passage from Isaiah, and Jesus condemns those who do not believe in Him.
3. We should remember that the church in Rome was made up primarily of Jewish converts. So, the teaching of the “remnant” was very important to them.
4. The root and branches picture is a difficult one also. We can’t compare the root system and the trunk of the tree to Israel. We must understand it as the true people of God, whatever their race. The life force of the tree is God Himself. He gives life, even to the branches that are grafted in by God’s choice.
5. The warning in verses 17-24 is that just as God removed Israel from the tree, He could also remove the Gentiles. A second understanding is evident, God will continue to bless His people and He can bring them back to His promise and blessing at any time.

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Student Worksheet

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=God was saying to Isaiah that though most of Israel was worshipping Baal, the _____ God, there were still many people who worshipped the _____ God, and they were the good cloth out of which God had made _____.

=Paul's point here is that even though most of Israel had rejected _____ as the true Messiah, there were some who had asked for God's _____ and were true worshippers of _____.

=The Gentiles were "grafted" into the tree of God's _____ people. This is not a decision by God to make everyone _____, it is a decision by believers to join the _____ chosen by God for His _____.

=Even though you may not know a lot about grafting _____ limbs, you can get the picture: God is going to have a _____. The family tree was the people of _____ at one time. Now, it is _____ of us. God wants _____ of us.

Scripture Memory: "And if by grace, then it no longer by works; if it were. Grace would no longer be grace." Romans 11:6

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.