

*“The Greatest Story”*  
*Romans 9:25-32*

**Introduction:**

1. I Think I Mentioned To Some Of You:
  - That - One Of The Things I Enjoy Doing On Vacation:
    - Is Reading!
      - Now - I Do A Lot Of Reading:
        - Throughout The Year - And:
          - Really - Each Week & Each Day:
            - Of The Year!
  - But - The Reading I Really Enjoy:
    - On Vacation Is:
      - My “Fun Books!”
        - Books That Are, Most Likely:
          - Not Related To Anything:
            - That I Am Preaching Or Teaching At The Church!
  - So - On Our Last Trip:
    - I Was Able To Read:
      - A Book On World War 2:
        - That My Son Gave Me:
          - Last Christmas!
    - I Was Also Able To Read:
      - A Book Written By An Old College Classmate Of Mine:
        - About An Old College Professor Of Mine!
    - I Was Also Able To Re-Read:
      - Another Allegory Of John Bunyans:
        - “The Holy War!”
2. And - For The Most Part:
  - I Really Enjoyed The Books:
    - And The Stories That Went With Them!
  - Because - A Really Good Book Or Story:
    - Will Teach & Enlighten You:
      - About Something That Is New!
        - This Is Why I Like To Read Histories & Biographies!
          - I Love To Learn About New Things!
  - When I Read The Book About:
    - My College History Professor - Dr. Ed Panosian:
      - I Learned More About:
        - The Armenian Genocide In The Early Part Of The 1900s:
          - Which Was Only Just Recognized By The United States By The Biden Administration, Over 100 Years Later!
  - A Really Good Story:
    - Will Also Draw You In!
      - To Get You To See Yourself:
        - In The Story!
    - This Is What Happened:
      - As I Read The “Band Of Brothers” - And:
        - Jumped With The Paratroopers:
          - Behind Enemy Lines:
            - As They Sought To Liberate Europe From Nazi Occupation!
  - I Was Captivated!
  - But Also - A Really Good Story:
    - Will Move You!
      - It Will Tug At Your Heart - Not Just Your Mind:
        - To Get You To Be Or Do Something:
          - More Than You Already Are Or Have!
    - Which Is What Bunyan’s Book Did!

- “The Holy War” Moved Me:
- To Surrender More & More:
- Of My Heart To The Lord!

3. A Good Story:

- Will Have All Of These Elements!
  - And The Story Of God’s Redemption:
    - Found In The Bible:
      - Does Just That!
  - It Has Been Called:
    - “The Greatest Story Every Told!”
      - This Was Even The Title:
        - Of An Epic Film About The Life Of Christ:
          - That Was Produced Back In 1965!
- But - The Great & Greatest Story:
  - That We Find In Our Bibles:
    - Is Not A Work Of Fiction:
      - But A Work Of Pure Fact!
    - And - It Was Not Given To Us:
      - For Our Entertainment:
        - But For Our Eternal Benefit!

4. And - As We Get Closer To The End:

- Of Romans 11 - We Find All Of The Elements:
  - Of A Good Story:
    - Working Together:
      - To Show Us How:
        - We Should Live Before God And Others:
          - In Our Part Of The Story!
  - So - If You’re Not There Already:
    - Please Turn Back With Me In Your Bibles:
      - To Romans 11:
        - Where The Lord Through The Apostle Paul:
          - Has Been Teaching Us The Dynamic Between:
            - The Jews & The Gentiles In His Historical Drama Of Redemption!
  - And As Born-Again Christians:
    - Gentiles Must Maintain An Attitude Of:
      - Humility & Honor:
        - Toward God’s Ancient Chosen People:
          - The Children Of Israel!

5. In The Verses We Looked At Last Week:

- Paul Explained:
  - **Why** We Need To Be Humble!
    - And The Reason Is:
      - Because Of The Gospel!
  - It Is The Gospel:
    - That Is The Antidote To The Poison Of Spiritual Pride!
- And - Whether You Find Pride Or Prejudice:
  - In Your Heart Towards Jewish People - Or:
    - Toward Any People:
      - You Need To Get Back To:
        - The Gospel!

6. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:

- Paul Will Continue In The Same Vein:
  - And Explain:
    - **How** We Can Be Humble!
      - Because - Just As We Are Told:
        - In 11:18 - To “Boast Not Against The Branches!”
          - And In 11:20 - “Be Not Highminded, But Fear!”
  - We Are Then Told:

- In 11:25 - "Lest Ye Should Be Wise In Your Own Conceits!"

7. So - In 11:25-32 - Paul Is Still Dealing With Our Pride!

- Let's Read Those Verses Together:

- "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. / 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: / 27 For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. / 28 As concerning the gospel, [they are] enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, [they are] beloved for the fathers' sakes. / 29 For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance. / 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: / 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. / 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all!"

8. In These Verses:

- We Are Told **How** To Be Humble:

- As The Greatest Drama & Story:

- Of God's Redemption:

- Unfolds!

\* And - The First Way That We Find Is In 11:25-27 - And That Is:

1. **Be Teachable!**

- Be Teachable:

- Because Of That Great Mystery:

- That Is Revealed To Us:

- In God's Story!

- **IE:** Some People Enjoy Reading Books Or Watching Shows That Have Some Mystery In Them! Something They Have To Figure Out! Our Family Has Recently Been Playing Some Mystery Games Together - And Enjoy Trying To Figure Out The Solution To Crime!

- Well - When We Come To "Mysteries" In The Bible - They Aren't Given To Us In The Same Way!

- A Bible "Mystery" Does Not Keep Us In Suspense - Instead - It Reveals To Us The Solution!

- And This Is What The Apostle Paul, Under The Inspiration & Revelation Of The Holy Spirit Provides To Us In These Verses!

- 11:25-27 - "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. / And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: / For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins!"

- Here - Through Paul - God Tells Us Something More & Something New About The Future!

- Not Only About Our Future - But About The Future Of:

- The People Of Israel!

- And So - In Humility:

- We Need To Be Teachable:

- To God's Revelation:

- In His Word!

- And - What God Reveals To Us:

- Is Nothing Short Of Amazing!

- We Learn More About:

- Israel's Condition:

- And The "Blindness" & The "Hardness" That They Currently Are Experiencing!

- It Will Not Last Forever!

- 11:25b - "That Blindness (Porosis - 11:7) In Part Is Happened To Israel, Until The Fulness Of The Gentiles Be Come In!"

- This Means That:

- There Will Come A Time:

- That God Will Remove This Hardness From The Hearts:

- That Is The Present Condition Of The Majority Of The People Of Israel!

- And This Will Take Place When:

- "The Fulness Of The Gentiles Be Come In!"

- This Refers To:
  - The “Fulness” Of The Number Of Gentiles Coming To Faith In Jesus Christ - And “Coming In” To:
    - The Kingdom Of God & Being Grafted Into The Good Olive Tree!
- There Is A Certain Number:
  - Of Individual Gentiles That God Has Chosen:
    - To Be Saved Through Faith In Christ!
      - And When The “Fulness” Of That Number Is Reached:
        - Israel - As A Whole - Will Be Given A New Condition!
- We Also Find - As Part Of This “Mystery”:
- Israel’s Conversion!
  - In 11:26 - We Are Told:
    - “And So All Israel Shall Be Saved!”
      - Now - There Has Been A Lot Of Ink Spilled On Parchment & Paper:
        - About These Words - But - There Are Some Things In This Statement:
          - That Are Pretty Clear!
  - First - “Israel” Must Mean:
    - The Ethnic People Of Israel:
      - Because That Is How “Israel” Is Used:
        - All Through The Chapter!
  - And Then - “Saved” Must Mean:
    - Salvation From Sin:
      - By Grace, Through Faith, In Jesus Christ!
        - Which Is What Paul’s Desire Has Been All Along!
          - 10:1 - “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved!”
  - So - Those Two Words Are Pretty Clear!
    - But - I Think To Really Understand What Paul Is Revealing To Us:
      - Hinges On Those Two Little Words “And So!”
    - “And” Means:
      - In Addition To & Along With The Gentile Believers! But:
    - “So” Means:
      - Not - “Then” - But:
        - “In The Same Manner” As:
          - The Gentile Believers!
  - In Other Words:
    - “All Israel” Means:
      - The Fulness Of The Jews - Just As:
        - The Fulness Of The Gentiles:
          - Will Be Saved!
    - So - “All Israel” That God Has Chosen:
      - **To Be** Saved Through Faith In Christ:
        - **Will** Be Saved!
    - And - At The End Of This Age:
      - This Will Most Likely Include:
        - An Entire Generation Of Jews:
          - Finally Putting Their Faith & Trust In Jesus As Their Messiah!
  - And That Is Nothing Short Of Amazing!
    - And - Nothing Less Than:
      - A Display Of God’s Amazing Grace!
        - But Then, We Also Find In This Mystery:
- Israel’s Christ!
  - The Apostle Paul Wants Us To See That:
    - There Were Some “Clues” About This Mystery:
      - Even In The Old Testament!
  - So - In The Rest Of 11:26-27:
    - He Uses Several Verses:
      - From Isaiah:

- To Show That This Has Been Part Of God's Plan All Along!
- Because - Isaiah 59:20 Tells Us That:
  - "There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer!"
    - Now - Paul's Words In Romans:
      - Are A Bit Different From:
        - The Original Words In Isaiah!
  - The Difference Is Found In That Word:
    - "Out" - Or "From" - Whereas:
      - In The Hebrew - "To Zion!"
      - In The LXX - "For Zion!"
- He's Not Mis-Translating Or Mis-Interpreting:
  - No - He Is Giving New Information!
    - The Timing Of Israel's Conversion Is:
      - At The Coming Of The Lord From The Heavenly Zion!
      - His Second Coming!
- And - At The Time Of His Coming:
  - We Will Then See:
- Israel's Change!
  - As Individuals Within That Nation:
    - Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ:
      - "The Deliverer . . . Shall Turn Away Ungodliness From Jacob" - And:
        - "Shall Take Away Their Sins!"
- And - All Of The Mystery & Suspense:
  - About God's Dealings With Israel:
    - Will Be Over!
      - Now - All Of The Details About:
        - This Conversion & Change Are Not Given!
- But - It Is Clear From The Rest Of Scripture:
  - That Their Salvation:
    - Will Come Through:
      - The Gospel!
  - Though - Perhaps:
    - Their Conversion Will Be:
      - Much Like Paul's Own Conversion On The Road To Damascus!
  - He Knew About Christ:
    - But He Did Not:
      - Believe In Christ!
- So - At Some Time In The Future:
  - After All The Gentiles:
    - That God Has Chosen To Be Saved:
      - Are Saved:
  - Then - The Gospel That They Preached All Throughout The World:
    - Will Not Only Be Known By The Jews:
      - But - Will Be Believed By The Jews!
        - Even At The Coming Of The Lord Himself From Heaven!
- This May Even Be What The Prophet Zechariah:
  - Had In Mind - When He Wrote:
    - Zechariah 12:10 - "And they shall look upon me whom they have pierced!"
- And So - As Gentile Christians:
  - We Need To Be Humble & Teachable:
    - When It Comes To God's Word & God's Plans:
      - About The Conversion Of:
        - All His People!
  - But Not Just About The Jews!
    - Also - About Other Gentiles!
      - Do You Know Who Will Yet Be Saved?
        - No! But Do We Know The Kinds Of People Yet To Be Saved?
          - Yes!

- The Same Kinds Of People:
  - That God Has Saved Throughout History!
    - Sinners! 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, / Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. / And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God!”
- And So - This Great Mystery:
  - In The Great Story Of Redemption:
    - Gives Us Greater Hope:
      - In The Future:
        - Of All Of God’s People:
          - Who Come To Him Through Faith In Jesus Christ!
  - So - This Is The First Way To Be Humble:
    - Be Teachable!

\* But - There Is A Second Way - And That Is:

**2. Be Thoughtful!**

- Be Thoughtful:
  - Because Of The Great Mutuality:
    - That We Find In:
      - God’s Story!
    - **IE:** Not Only Does A Good Story Have Elements Of Mystery - It Will Also Draw You In - So You Can Even See Yourself In The Story!
      - And This Too Is What God’s Story Does!
        - It Shows You That:
          - His Story Is Really:
            - Your Story Too!
    - And - Whether You Are A Jew Or A Gentile:
      - And Even - Whether You Are:
        - Saved Or Not Saved:
          - You Still Have More In Common With Each Other:
            - Than You Think!
    - And - This Is What We Find Next In:
      - 11:28-29 - “As concerning the gospel, [they are] enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, [they are] beloved for the fathers’ sakes. / For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance!”
    - We See Here - That In Humility:
      - You Need To Be Thoughtful:
        - About Others Because - Everyone Has:
- A Mutual Past!
  - In The First Part Of 11:28:
    - Paul Calls The Unbelieving Jews:
      - “Enemies!”
        - Enemies Of God & The Church:
          - Because Of The Gospel & Its Offense To Them!
  - Of Course - Paul Knew What He Was Talking About:
    - Since He Was - Before He Was Saved:
      - According To His Own Testimony - 1 Timothy 1:13 - “A blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious!
  - But - Could This Still Be Said Today?
    - Yes! Because, Even Though There May Be More Understanding & Toleration:
      - Between Unbelieving Jews & Christians:
        - That Cooperation Usually Comes To An Abrupt End:
          - When You Try To Win Then To Jesus Christ!
  - And That Really Is To Be:
    - Our Number One Aim:

- As Christians - For Jews!
  - Their Salvation - Through Faith In The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
- Not Just To Get Them:
  - To Return To A Land Called Israel:
    - But To Lead Them To Christ!
- But - Even Though They May Be Our Enemies Now:
  - Weren't You God's Enemy Too?
    - Colosians 1:21 - "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled!"
- So - Yes - You Need To Remember That:
  - With Sinners - You Have A Mutual Past:
    - Whether You Are A Jew Or Gentile!
      - But - Also - You Need To Remember That - Even With Unbelieving Jews - You Have:
- A Mutual Position!
  - A Position Of Favor With God!
    - The Favor May Be A Bit Different:
      - But - It Is Still A Blessing From God!
  - As A Christian:
    - You Are "Beloved" & Blessed By God:
      - Because He Has Chosen You - And:
        - Elected You:
          - As His Child! (See Romans 8)
  - But - Even Unbelieving Jews:
    - Are "Beloved" & Have Been Blessed By God!
      - Why? Because God Chose Them - And:
        - Because Of The Faith Of Their Fathers:
          - Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob!
    - And - As We've Already Seen In Chapter 11:
      - Israel Is Still Special To God!
  - So - You Need To Be Humble & Thoughtful:
    - And Remember That:
      - In God's Plan & Story:
        - Both Jews & Gentiles Have A Place - And Are:
          - Beloved By Him!
  - But - You Also Need To Remember:
    - That You Have:
- A Mutual Promise!
  - 11:29 - "For the gifts and calling of God [are] without repentance!"
    - God Is An Unchanging / Immutable God!
      - In Fact, This Is The Reason Why:
        - There Are Still Jews In This World!
          - Malachi 3:6 - "For I [am] the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed!"
  - When God Chose & Called:
    - The People Of Israel:
      - To Bring Blessing To The World:
        - His Plan For Them Has Never Changed:
          - And Will Not Fail!
  - And - When God Chose & Called You:
    - To Save & To Bless You:
      - With "All Spiritual Blessings In Heavenly Places In Christ!" (Ephesians 1:3)
        - His Plan For You Has Never Changed:
          - And Never Will!
- And So - As Christians:
  - We Need To Be Humble & Thoughtful:
    - When It Comes To Those:
      - Who May Still Be "Enemies" Because Of The Gospel!

- Because:
  - As They Are:
    - So You Once Were!
    - Lost! And:
  - As You Are:
    - So They May Yet Be!
    - Saved!
- And So - This Great Mutuality:
  - In The Great Story Of Redemption:
    - Should Motivate Us To Greater Honor:
      - In The Fellowship:
        - Of All God's People!
        - Even Those Yet To Come!
  - How Are We To Be Humble?
    - By Being Teachable - And:
      - By Being Thoughtful!

\* And Then - There's A Third Way Which We Find In These Verses - And That Is:

**3. Be Tender!**

- Be Tender:
  - Because Of The Great Mercy Of God:
    - That We Find In:
      - His Great Story!
    - **IE:** A Good Story Will Move You & Stir You Up! Not Just In Mind, But In Heart & In Action! You Know This! Has A Book Or A Movie Brought You To Tears?
      - This Is What God's Story Of Redemption Should & Will Do To You:
        - When God Opens Up Your Eyes & Ears & Heart To Its Truth!
    - And This Is What We Find Next:
      - In 11:30-32 - Which Is - More Or Less:
        - A Review Of What Paul Has Already Shared With Us In This Chapter!
      - "For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: / Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. / For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all!"
        - If Nothing Else:
          - God's The Meaning & Message Of God's Story:
            - Is His Mercy!
        - 4 Times In 3 Verses Its Mentioned Here!
          - Why? Because God Himself Describes Himself As:
            - "A God Ready To Pardon, Gracious And Merciful, Slow To Anger, And Of Great Kindness!" (Nehemiah 9:17)
      - And So - In Summary Of This Chapter:
        - Paul Remind Us That:
    - We Needed God's Mercy!
      - 11:30 - "For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief!"
        - You Needed God's Mercy:
          - Because You Were A Sinner:
            - And Did Not Believe In God:
              - Nor In His Word:
                - Nor In Christ!
      - Other Translations:
        - May Have "Obey" Instead Of "Believe":
          - But - In Truth - It Means The Same Thing!
            - If You Do Not Believe:
              - You Will Not Obey!
            - In Fact - Unbelief Is:
              - Disobedience!
          - So - Either Translation Is Valid!



- But The Point Is:
  - God Used The Unbelief Of Israel To Spread The Gospel To You & To Me & To The Rest Of The World!
- But Then - Paul Reminds Us That:
  - They Need God's Mercy!
    - 11:31 - "Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy!"
      - So Now - The Vast Majority Of The People Of Israel Need God's Mercy:
        - Because They Too Are Sinners:
          - And Do Not Believe In God:
            - Nor In His Word:
              - Nor In Christ!
      - They Might Appear To Believe:
        - In Some Of It:
          - But - Not In The Truth Of It!
    - And So - Now:
      - God Is Able To Use:
        - Your Belief In The Mercy Of God:
          - To Bring The Gospel:
            - Back To Them!
    - And What Does This Show?
  - God Made It Possible:
    - For All To Receive His Mercy!
      - 11:32 - "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all!"
    - Even Jesus Said:
      - In Mark 2:17 - "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance!"
  - God Has Let Every Kind Of Sinner:
    - Whether Jew Or Gentile:
      - To Remain In Unbelief For Some Time:
        - So That The Light Of His Mercy:
          - In The Gospel:
            - Can Shine Even Brighter:
              - Because Of The Darkness Of Their Hearts!
    - And - Since Every Sinner:
      - Has The Same Need:
        - God Can Provide:
          - The Same Solution!
            - His Mercy Through Jesus Christ!
  - God Is So Tender In His Mercy!
    - Even To Us - As:
      - Disobedient & Disbelieving Sinners!
  - And Really - As Christians:
    - We Need To Be Humble & Tender:
      - Even As God Himself Is Tender:
        - Toward All!
  - Because - This Great Mercy:
    - In The God's Great Story Of Redemption:
      - Should Move You:
        - To Respond To His Mercy:
          - Through Faith & Love & Obedience!
      - But Then - It Should Also Stir You Up:
        - To Reveal His Tender Mercies:
          - To Others!
  - How Are We To Be Humble?
    - By Being Teachable - And:
      - By Being Thoughtful! And:
        - By Being Tender:
          - Even As God Himself:

- Is Tender & Merciful!

**Conclusion:**

1. The Gospel Story Really Is:
  - The "Greatest Story Every Told!"
    - It Will Enlighten You & Teach You:
      - God's Plan & Purpose:
        - Not Just For Your Life - But:
          - For The Entire World!
  - It Will Draw You In:
    - As You See Yourself:
      - Within Its Pages! And:
  - It Will Move You:
    - When You See The Love & Tenderness:
      - Of God - Toward Sinners:
        - Just Like You!
2. And So - Be Humble:
  - As You Learn More About:
    - God's Great Redemption Story!
      - Especially Since:
        - There Are More Chapters To Be Written:
          - And More Souls To Be Saved!
  - Be Humble - By:
    - Being Teachable & Thoughtful & Tender!
      - Because Of All That God:
        - Has Done For You!

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