

SLIDE 1 Romans 9 - The Expanding Reach of Mercy

- **SLIDE 2 Nineveh** - skinned, impaled & mutilated, & burned children - **God sent Jonah to them**
- God twisted Jonah's arm to call them to repent or die...**they responded**...and **God spared them**
- Jonah in anger - I knew it! You are gracious & compassionate, slow to anger & **abounding in mercy**

Mercy is Compassion toward someone in need or underserving, resulting in **taking some action**

Mercy isn't just something God does—it is a reflection of His glory, who He is, & part of His name

- **SLIDE 3** Exo 33:18 Moses said, "Please **show me your glory**." 19 And he said, "I will make all **my goodness** pass before you and will proclaim before you **my name**.....Exo 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and **proclaimed**, "The LORD, the LORD, **a God merciful and gracious**

Romans 9-11 is a single train of thought...There are tons of **Gentiles coming to faith** in Jesus, while **Israel is largely rejecting** her Messiah...so it begs the question...**Has God's Word failed?** Paul's answer is no...it is not the failure of God's plan **but the unfolding of it, and mercy is at its heart**. Today, in Romans 9, we'll see a picture of the ever-widening reach of God's mercy.

A short excerpt begins in 9 - Mercy is His prerogative, ends in 11 his movement to extend it to all

- **SLIDE 4** Rom 9:15 — For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy **on whom** I have mercy, and I will have compassion **on whom** I have compassion."
- Rom 11:32 For God has **consigned all** to disobedience, that he may have **mercy on all**.

He Expanded Mercy by making it about a promise rather than ancestry - the promise was Christ

- **SLIDE 5 Rom 9:7-8** and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." (8) This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but **the children of the promise are counted as offspring**.
 - **Flesh - Ishmael** (directed by man)...**promise → Isaac** (*promise is only possible by God's hand*)
- **SLIDE 6 Gal 3:16** — "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, 'And to offsprings,' referring to many, but referring to one, '**And to your offspring,**' **who is Christ**."
 - If it is about ancestry a small subset could be saved - **if Christ, it opens to the whole world**

Expanded Mercy by making it about calling rather than works

- **SLIDE 7 Rom 9:10-11** And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, (11) though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, **not because of works but because of him who calls—**
 - If it were of works no one would be saved, since none can keep the law
- 2 Thes 2:13-14God chose you...to be saved...**he called you through our gospel**
 - **Making it about calling → through the Gospel →** (*the opportunity is open to all nations*)
 - **The promise is about Jesus and the calling is about the Great Commission to all nations**

SLIDE 8 All who have received salvation have received it because of God's Mercy

- Eph 2:4-5 But God, **being rich in mercy**... made us alive together with Christ
- Tit 3:5 He saved us...**according to his own mercy**
- 1Pe 1:3 According **to his great mercy**, he has caused us to be born again

He expanded mercy by even using rebellion and hardened hearts to serve His purpose

SLIDE 9 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

- **SLIDE 10** Notice Pharaoh had a hard heart on his own → God simply gave him what he wanted
 - Ex 8:15 - But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart...
 - Ex 8:32 - But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and did not let the people go.
 - Ex 9:34 - Pharaoh.....sinned yet again and hardened his heart, he and his servants
- **SLIDE 11** God raise up a hardened man to show His power & proclaim His name
 - **HOW?** (40 years later in Jericho Rahab said) "we heard how the LORD dried up the Red Sea"
 - expanded mercy to a Canaanite prostitute → she was saved → into the family tree of Jesus
- So also there is a partial hardening of the Jews - rejecting Messiah so the gospel can go to the Gentiles
 - **SLIDE 12** Rom 11:25 ...I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Bottom Line: Jesus is the stone - we build on or Stumble over - Mercy it extended through Him

- **SLIDE 13** 30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. **SLIDE 14** 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
 - **Not be put to shame** → You may stumble over Jesus now, reject Him now, or consider Him foolish now, but the person who puts his trust in Him will never stand before God someday and discover that he trusted the wrong foundation.

SLIDE 15 Rom 11:32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. (33) Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Takeaway...

I hope you are **blown away by God's Mercy** - and grateful that he expanded it to all people even to you
I hope you are **blown away by the wisdom** of God to consign all to disobedience in order to have mercy on all
I hope you are **blown away** by the **judgments** (decisions) and the **ways** of God and how he works in the world even among the hardened and rebellious to fulfill His purpose...and that His **Mercy extends** to the evil **Ninevites**, or the **Canaanite prostitute** - **going beyond forgiveness and placing into the lineage of Jesus** or all the Gentiles of the world

- UNSEARCHABLE → no matter how deep you search, you **never reach bottom** (judgements)
- INSCRUTABLE → **untraceable** like tracks

But know this, while he is extending mercy to all...it is found in the promise and person of Jesus Christ...

- **To one far from God - who feels unworthy of his mercy** → **it extends even to you, but it is found in the person of Jesus**
- **To the believer** Don't be like Jonah → don't skip over those you think unworthy of mercy, run to tell them of the amazing mercy offered to them through Jesus, don't let them stumble on the stone.