

The Hope For The Rest of Us Romans 11:11-16

Main idea: Unbelief does not thwart God's plans; instead, it serves to fulfill them.
Through Israel's rejection, salvation has come to the nations.

- Do you often feel like you have fallen beyond repair?
- How does God bring about restoration in someone's life?

Israel's Unbelief Brought The Gospel To The Nations - (vv. 11-12)

- v. 11a
- Isaiah 42:6-7
- Acts 13:45-48
- Ephesians 2:11-22

Gentiles' Belief Will Lead To Israel's Future Salvation - (vv. 13-16)

- vv. 11b,13-14
- Acts 7:58-60
- Acts 16:25-30
- Romans 9:4-5
- Ephesians 2:1-10

So What?

- Does my life make the Gospel attractive, compelling, and challenging to those who are far from Christ?
- What are areas of our lives that are still broken?
 - **Luke 15:11-32; Isaiah 54**

The Main idea: God is both willing and able to restore repentant sinners. He receives the undeserving with compassion, restores them by grace, and invites the self-righteous to share His joy.

- Read Luke 15:1–2 and 11–32. Try to determine the context of the parable. What two kinds of people does this parable want us to reflect on and learn from?
 - Jesus tells this parable because religious leaders are criticizing Him for receiving sinners.
 - The story addresses two kinds of lostness: the younger son's rebellion (sinners and tax collectors) and the older son's self-righteousness (Pharisees).
- What does the younger son's journey reveal about the nature and consequences of sin? (vv.11-16)
 - What did the younger son believe life away from his father would give him?
 - How did his pursuit of freedom eventually become slavery, emptiness, and humiliation?
 - Where do people today seek satisfaction, fulfillment, or pleasure apart from God?
 - How does this part of the story challenge the idea that sin brings genuine freedom?
 - Sin promises independence and fulfillment but ultimately separates, isolates, enslaves, and destroys.
- What do the father's actions reveal about God's desire and power to restore sinners? (vv.17-24)
 - What shows that the father was eager to receive his son?
 - Why does the father dismiss the son's plan to become a hired servant?
 - What is represented by the robe, ring, sandals, and feast? (imputed righteousness, authority, sonship, celebration)
 - How is restoration greater than merely being tolerated or allowed to return and kept at a distance.
 - God does not reluctantly accept repentant sinners. He compassionately receives them and restores them to the privileges of sonship.

"This son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found." — Luke 15:24

- How does the older brother reveal another form of lostness? (vv.25-30)

- What do the older son's words reveal about how he viewed his father, himself, and his brother?
- Why was he unable to rejoice over his brother's restoration?
- How can religious obedience become a way of trying to place God in our debt (as if He owes us something for our obedience)?
- In what ways can churches resemble the older brother when broken people begin returning to God? (Holiness before salvation, sanctification before justification, expectation before celebration)
- A person may remain outwardly near God while inwardly distant from His grace. Self-righteousness and legalism are as spiritually dangerous as open, in-your-face rebellion.
- **How should God's restoring grace shape our response to wandering people? (vv.31-32)**
 - What does the father's appeal to the older brother teach us about God's heart toward both rebellious and self-righteous sinners?
 - Is there someone you have considered beyond the reach of God's restoring grace? Do you feel this way?
 - What practical steps can a church take to welcome repentant people while still taking sin seriously?
 - Where might God be calling you to return, forgive, welcome, or celebrate?
 - Because God delights to restore the lost, His people should pursue wanderers, welcome the repentant, and celebrate every evidence of grace.
- **Which son are you most tempted to resemble—and what would it look like for you to receive and reflect the Father's restoring grace this week?**