

Series: The Riches of His Glory; Sermon: **Fullness of Riches**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **September 25, 2016**

Bible text explored: Romans 11:1–12

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³“Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” ⁴But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

⁷What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written,

“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that would not see
and ears that would not hear,
down to this very day.”

⁹And David says,

“Let their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;
¹⁰let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
and bend their backs forever.”

¹¹So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹²Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Paul (vv. 1-2a) implies that since God *foreknew* the Israelites, he couldn’t reject them. How does foreknowledge extend to a choice based on grace and a kind ultimate purpose?
2. How does Elijah (vv.2b-4) illustrate the reality that God assures a *remnant* committed to him? (See also 1 Kings 19:1-18.)
3. Do you sometimes feel like God has rejected you? Why can you bank on God’s demonstrated desire to, in Pastor Moody’s words, “redeem the unredeemable”? How do the examples of Moses, David, and Paul confirm this divine trait? What clue does Elijah’s commission to cultivate an Elisha give about how you could begin to dispel the sense that you or your culture has been rejected?
4. On what single basis (vv. 5-6) have we been accepted?
5. Pastor Josh paraphrased Paul’s “What then?” question (v. 7-10) as “Why is a basket case like me loved like this?” How does Paul explain our being among his elect, while Israel’s majority was *hardened*?
6. Why must we accept the parallel tracks of God’s sovereignty and human responsibility? (See Phil. 2:12.) How should we respond to our spiritual blessings, special opportunities, and the gifts with which God has equipped us? (See Psalm 16:6.)
7. Pastor Josh paraphrased the third question (vv.11-12) as “What kind of God is this?” What is God’s purpose in using the acceptance of the Messiah by the gentiles to make Israel jealous? (See Deut. 32:21.) How does this glimpse of the end of the story reveal God’s ultimate purpose?
8. In Luke 15:1 –32, Jesus portrays responses to a father’s sheer grace by this wild younger son and proper older son. To which do you relate more closely, and why?