

SCRIPTURE: Romans 11:1-10 TITLE: "The Grace of the Gospel"

Intro: Selling fake cigars is lucrative business. Also illegal. Miami store owner, **Jorge Gomero**, of El Baraton store found out in March 2024. Arrested for selling stolen goods and nearly 5,000 fake cigar boxes and labels, which would then be filled with counterfeit cigars and sold as real things: \$1,124,000. Just because it's got the label and it fits in the box, doesn't mean it's the real thing. What's on the outside, and what you call it doesn't matter. What's matter is what's inside. What's it actually filled with?

Thesis: Only those who have received God's grace through faith in Jesus, are true believers.

I. God's People

- A. 1-3: Equal Need (Sin). 3-6 (Grace/justified). 7-8 (Sanctification/Spirit). 9-10 (Sovereignty/People)
- B. Small. Remnant. History. He's always preserved His people. A faithful few.
- C. Noah. Abraham. Joseph. Moses. Gideon. Judah (& Benjamin). Elijah (7,000). Nehemiah (Exiles).

ILLUSTRATION: Elijah after victory Mt. Carmel. Drought/Rain. Jezebel sent to kill. Run. Hide. Cave.

- D. This was what God used to encourage Paul facing pushback/persecution. *"I have people here."*

APPLICATION:

1. **Never alone.** No matter how discouraged/alone may feel. "There's a million people just like you."
2. **Preserved People.** God will always preserve a faithful remnant. His True People. Genuine.

II. God's Grace for His People

- A. **Who are God's people?** Those who have received his righteousness and forgiveness by grace.
- B. **"Obtained it."** Means it's not something your born into or born with. It must be gotten.
- C. **Thru faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.** Not by works. Not by outward adornment or labels.
- D. **Sin doesn't disqualify you.** Your sin is what qualifies for God's grace. Not your goodness.
- E. **No such things as "too sinful."** Where sin abounds, grace abounds more. Mo' sin = mo' grace
- F. **Can't out-sin His grace.** The more sin you have the more grace you get.
- G. **Jews believed because of heritage, lineage, biology, ethnicity, geography,** "we're good."
They had the label. They were in the right box. But they weren't genuine. Weren't real on inside.

ILLUSTRATION: Mouse Trap. Imagine if we could read a mouse's mind. "What's that smell? So good. Like nuts, but richer, creamier. Like someone crushed a load of peanuts and let all the oils ooze out. Strong. Oh there it is! Out in the open. It's like it was meant for me. Just left out. What luck. It's sitting there on this flat board, spread out on this little metal plate, like a table set for my enjoyment. Oh man. Look at it. Creamy, oily, crushed peanuts. Almost like butter. Peanut Butter. How glorious. It smells so good. I've just gotta taste it...WHAP!" **His table became his trap. Same for Jews.** They became confident in their lineage. What they thought was their joy/security became their downfall/condemnation.

- H. **Didn't get why they were searching.** Jesus said: "You search the Scriptures because you think you have life in them. But they testify about me. And you did not believe in me." **Justification.**
- I. **"God doesn't have grandchildren. Only children."** By grace thru faith. **Adopted/Chosen.**
- J. **As many as have received Him. He gave the right to be children of God. Must receive by faith.**
- K. **He didn't reject His people.** Look at Paul! He saved him! Saved by grace. Ambushed by Jesus.

APPLICATION:

1. **God's Country.** Jesus: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord...didn't we do all these things in your Name." "I never knew you. Depart from me workers of evil" But didn't we:
 - a. **Sitting in McD's doesn't make you a big Mac.** A Garage doesn't make you a car. Sitting in church.
 - b. **From the South.** I voted Republican/Democrat. Didn't vote. Said "bless their heart" all the time.
 - c. **Worked hard.** Provided. Wasn't a quitter. Didn't complain. Did what had to be done.
 - d. **Person of integrity.** Stuck to my morals. Went to church when I could. Showed respect to folks.
 - e. **Got Married.** Good spouse. Had kids. They graduated. Go to church. Did my best to leave legacy
 - f. **Only posted good stuff online.** Theology. Bible Memes. Truth. Fact checks. Quotes.
 - g. **All the works you thought were good and winning you favor with God, are evil.** Kept from grace.
2. **Pray for Israel.** To believe the Gospel. Paul's desire for Jews to believe in Jesus as the CHRIST. We don't reject or despise Jews, we don't exalt or elevate Jews to special status. We treat them equally. Which means viewing them as equal sinners, with an equal opportunity to believe in Jesus as Savior.
3. **God's Electing Grace.** If salvation is 100% God's grace, then no place to boast or feel pride. Not because of me or anything I did or believed. **"WHY ME?!" I don't deserve this.**