

14. Is the church today doing a good job of provoking the Jews to jealousy? How could we do a better job?
15. Could someone looking at your life envy the blessings you have and enjoy in Christ? Do they want to know what you have that they don't? Do you exhibit such joy in your God that people want to know where it comes from?
16. How can we pray for each other this week?



Message #76: Hardening for Mercy's Sake

February 7, 2016

Sermon
Notes

Quotes to Ponder

God is sovereign even in the hardening and trespass and failure of whole peoples, and His aim in the end by His own unsearchable wisdom is mercy. None of us deserves to be saved. But God is gathering a people through faith in Christ from all the peoples of the world. And one day mercy will triumph over the Israel's hardness, and she will come by faith in Christ to her own inheritance. It may seem to us a very roundabout way to bring mercy to Israel and the nations. But we are not God. He knows what kind of history must take place to reveal the fullness of His wisdom and His mercy against the backdrop of His justice and wrath.

John Piper

The greatest act of anti-Semitism that you can commit against a Jewish person, or against the Jewish people as a whole, is to refuse to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ with them and to refuse to pray that they might enter into the same benefits that you enjoy yourself. Paul is teaching us to have a heart of love for the Jewish people and that includes a longing to see them converted. That's very difficult, and I understand in our day and age it must be done with great sensitivity, but Paul is teaching us to have a heart for the Jewish people.

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1. What in the text or sermon impacted you most? What encouraged you? Convicted you? Confused you?

2. What is the significance of the fact that the Jews did not *stumble so as to fall* (*Romans 11:11*)?

3. How did Israel's stumbling, transgression, and failure benefit Gentiles (*Romans 11:11-12; Acts 13:44-48; 18:4-7*)?

4. In His sovereignty, God used Israel's rejection of Jesus to accomplish His plan for the nations. Where in the Old Testament does God promise to bless the nations?

5. How does God use the salvation of the Gentiles to benefit the Jews (*Romans 10:19; 11:11, 14*)?

6. How can envy lead a person to faith in Jesus?

7. Was the Jews stumbling a surprise to God?

Psalms 22:6-7 —

Matthew 8:11-12 —

Isaiah 49:7 —

Matthew 21:42-43 —

Isaiah 53:1-3 —

8. What future hope is there for Israel (*Romans 11:12, 14-15*)?

9. What is God's plan for Israel according to these verses?

Isaiah 66:10-14 —

Zechariah 14:1-11 —

Zechariah 12:10 —

Matthew 23:39 —

Zechariah 13:1 —

Romans 11:26-27 —

10. What is the benefit to all when Israel returns to God (*Romans 11:12, 15*)?

11. Has Paul given up on the Jews and only has concern for Gentiles (*Romans 11:13-14*)?

12. What attitude should Gentile Christians have toward the Jewish race?

13. What role should Gentile Christians have in stimulating Israel's desire to seek a true relationship with God?