

# God's generosity truly satisfies

Romans 9:1-5

Illustrated by Isaiah 55:1-5 and  
Matthew 14:13-21

St Ursula's Church Berne  
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# Questions

- How do we respond to generosity?
- But what happens when the God of the entire universe offers something?
- How should we respond to his generosity?
- What are his gifts to us?
- Is there anything we can do to equal or surpass what he has given to us?

# Focus Passage: Romans 9:1-5

- Beginning of a major transition in Paul's letter
- This section, Chapters 9-11, answers the questions:
  - Why the people of Israel?
  - What is Israel's role in God's plan?
  - How should Jewish and non-Jewish followers of Jesus respect one another and live in harmony as the Body of Christ?

# Paul's list about what makes Israel special

## Romans 9:1-5

<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong

1) the adoption,

2) the glory,

3) the covenants,

4) the giving of the law,

5) the worship,

6) and the promises;

7) to them belong the patriarchs,

8) and from them, according to the flesh, **comes the Messiah,**

who is over all, God blessed forever.  
Amen.

# Summary of Israel's special role

Israel is special in God's plan because...

- God chose them among all the peoples; in fact, based on the Scriptures, God created the people from the family of Abraham.
- God has given them all these things (in the list) to share with the world.
- God has given the Messiah through Israel for all peoples.

# Simeon about Jesus as light

- Simeon summarizes this thought perfectly:
- Jesus is 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.'

Luke 2:32

# 1<sup>st</sup> illustration of God's generosity: Isaiah 55:1-5

- The picture leads to the main point:
- "I will make with you **an everlasting covenant**" (v. 3).
- a covenant for Israel and for all peoples and nations (vv. 4-5).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Illustration of God's generosity: Matthew 14:13-21

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 **And all ate and were filled**; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, **twelve baskets full**. 21 And those who ate were **about five thousand men, besides women and children**.



# Back to Romans 5:1-5

Based on 'Paul's list'

- What has God not done to display his glory and generosity to the world?
- What could he have done more to show his us his love and desire to know us?
- 'Nothing more'; he gave himself, both for Israel and for all nations.

# Take away for this week

- All three passages point to one thing: Something that only God could do, and he offers it to us *in abundance*.
- In God's plan, Israel is a people *for all peoples*.
  - Through Israel, **God displays his glory and generosity**.
  - Culminating in the Messiah, the Lord Jesus
- How we can receive gratefully God's good gifts, today and the coming week?
  - Our response at the Lord's table.
  - Do **I have to give** something for these good gifts? No!
  - But you can offer him a thankful heart *and* imitate his generosity towards those in need.