

Lent Day 25

March 29, 2017

Reading: Romans 11:1-10

2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

Reflection

I was a new Christian when I entered Bible College 22 years ago and I remember people being worried about the portion of the gospel where Jesus says that blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is the unforgivable sin. We were a bunch of young Christians who and there was tremendous fear around this, perhaps I have committed this unforgivable sin. How would I know?

This came up one day in our New Testament class and our professor said something that was helpful for me, the only sin that is unforgivable is the one we never ask forgiveness for. When I look back on the thinking behind the fear, I realize that it came down to not really understanding God — he doesn't give up.

That is what he is saying in our passage today too. Paul is working through his argument about the gospel and the new people which result from it. He is using a method of posing a hypothetical question that people might conclude based on what he has said, in order to correct and head off that misdirection. At this point a person might wonder if God, having created a people for himself through the gospel made up of both Jew and Gentile alike, had left behind the people of Israel as a whole. His answer couldn't be more straight forward; no. God doesn't give up, he is unrelenting.

That's true for you and I too. Whether we are a non-Christian, a new Christian or a mature Christian, we can all struggle with a misunderstanding of God. That he may lose patience with us and unknown to us we had crossed a line and he has moved on without us. Maybe you're worried you've sinned too much, sin too much, sinned too often, or sin too often and God will secretly say, enough. The answer is no. He has not rejected you and he will not reject you. Simply turn to him. The only sin God will not forgive is the sin we never seek forgiveness for.

Prayer

God of mercy and grace. Thank you for your unrelenting nature that never gives up or quits on us. In times of doubt turn our hearts away from our fears and to your gracious heart. Amen.