

## “I Don’t Deserve This”

February 24, 2019

Psalm 69:1-9

Jesus had a great respect for His Father. He had such a deep reverence for God, the Father as the One, True, Holy God that His life became a public rebuke to those people who had little or no interest in the Truth. And, the result of that zeal for His Father was that Jesus often faced ridicule and reproach; things He did not deserve. Psalm 69:9 “*For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*”

To have zeal for something eat you up means to be consumed by it. To be reproached means to be mocked or laughed at and ridiculed.

Believe it or not, two researchers, René Proyer and Willibald Ruch from the University of Zurich (Switzerland) in 2009, took a survey to determine if the respondents were ridiculed and/or mocked; 22,000 adults; 73 countries; 42 languages. And they discovered something. And they named it. It’s a phobia. They call it gel-oto-phobia, the fear of being laughed at. And they now say that there are fifteen ways you can tell if you’ve got it. Actually, the survey is made up of fifteen questions that you can answer to decide for yourself if you’ve got it.

I have no doubt that many of you have experience with having been insulted and or verbally abused by someone; unfairly criticized; even condemned; misunderstood? If you have been, and, almost everyone has, then you’ve experienced feelings of injustice and feelings of helplessness.

Now, if you’ve got gelotophobia, I don’t know if I can help. But, here’s what we have. We have a Bible. We have a book that reveals, not only that some have experienced

reproach, but why and how to handle it. I discovered two people who were very much insulted, very much verbally abused and completely misunderstood. The first is King David and the second is King Jesus.

Would you open your Bible with me to the Book of Psalms at the sixty-ninth Psalm? This is a Psalm of David. Look with me at the description of insults and the injustices that fell on David. Psalm 69:4 “*They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.*”

Look at verse seven, “*Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. (8) I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. (9) For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me. (10) When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.*”

Now, verse twelve. Psalm 69:12 “*They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.*”

Can you imagine David being surveyed and asked if he’d ever been laughed at?

Next, Psalm 69:17 “*And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily. (18) Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies. (19) Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour: mine adversaries are all before thee. (20) Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.*”

The universal language of man is pain. There’s patience. There’s endurance. And then, there’s perseverance. If you are dealing with people, you need patience. If you are in pain, you endure. But, when you are insulted or ridiculed, you need something more. You need perseverance.

Almost the entire 69<sup>th</sup> Psalm is a prayer of David when he had been misjudged and mistreated. *“They hate me without a cause...being mine enemies wrongfully ... I was the song of drunkards ... reproach has broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.”*

Being ridiculed, hated without a cause; being laughed at, misjudged etc. was no easier for the shepherd who wrote the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm than for the shepherd who wrote the 69<sup>th</sup> Psalm.

I’ve titled today’s message “I Don’t Deserve This.” Shall we pray?

I’m sure you’ve experience being misunderstood. And I’m sure you’ve felt like saying “I Don’t Deserve This.” But, would you agree with me that there must be a God-ordained purpose even in this?

The first, I said, was King David. The second is King Jesus.

Look again at the same Psalm, Psalm 69:21 *“They gave me also gall [poison] for my meat [food]; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”*

Does that passage ring a bell from something you’ve read in the New Testament? Did you know that Book of Psalms is the most-quoted Old Testament Book? The New Testament quotes from the Book of Psalms 68 times. And this 69<sup>th</sup> Psalm is quoted six times in the New Testament.

This exact verse, Psalm 69:21, for example, is quoted in the Gospel of Matthew. Now, please turn with me to Matthew twenty-seven and find with me twenty-eighth verse. Matthew 27:28 *“And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. (29) And when they had platted [wove] a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!*

*(30) And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. (31) And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe*

*off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.*

*(32) And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross. (33) And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, (34) They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall [poison]: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. (35) And they crucified him ...”*

The LORD Jesus fulfilled a prediction from something David originally wrote about himself in a Psalm; the Sixty-ninth Psalm. Can you imagine what David would have thought if he’d only known that *his* experience of mockery and abuse and injustice and his feelings of complete helplessness would one day be applied to the Jewish Messiah? Do you think he might have been able to better handle it?

And, if *you* knew that God had *His* own reasons for allowing you to endure it, do you think you’d be able to handle it when people misunderstand you?

So, if you’ve been verbally abused, insulted, unfairly criticized or unjustly condemned, don’t despair. If God allowed it for the benefit of King David; if He allowed it in the life of His Own Son; would He not also have some good reason for it in your life?

Now, why? Why all this about being mocked and ridiculed?

Let me show you exactly why. You see, God allowed it. Please find with me Romans chapter eleven and verse seven. Romans 11:7 *“What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. (8) (According as it is written, (in three places in the OT – Deuteronomy 29:4; Jeremiah 5:21; and Ezekiel 12:2) God hath given them [the Jews] the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.*

(9) *And David saith, [in Psalm 69] Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompense [pay-back] unto them: (10) Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always [to bow down the back means to be rewarded with lots of oppressive burdens because you've mistreated someone].*

*(11) I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy. (12) Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? (13) For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: (14) if by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh [the Jews], and might save some of them."*

Here's what's on my heart today.

The LORD tells us exactly why He allowed Jesus to be reproached and treated so meanly.

Think about it like this. Jesus was a peace-loving, pure, perfect, patient Jew. The zeal of His Father's House ate Him up, meaning His deepest desire was that His Father be honored. Yet, this Perfect Person, the Promised Jewish Messiah, was abused and mistreated more than any man in history. Even to this day, Jesus Christ is misunderstood. Many people hate Him, while they know almost nothing about Him.

Now, practically speaking, no one likes to be abused. None of us have any desire to be misunderstood. But, injustice does happen. And the reason why you experience injustice is this: God knows something that you don't know. He knows something about this type of suffering that you will probably never understand this side of Heaven.

David certainly didn't understand it. And, according to Paul, the Jews, himself included before he personally met Jesus, were blind; and blind, surprisingly, for good reason.

David understands it *now*. He's in Heaven. Jesus understands it because He's God. But we are still earth-bound. We live in a world that, to this moment, continues to reject the Perfect, Pure Messiah of Israel. And, if they ridiculed Him, they'll ridicule you.

So, what is the reason why the LORD allows His people to suffer unjustly and suffer misunderstanding? Here's what Paul says. Look at the Jewish people.

First, there's a Divine reason why don't the Jews get it?

Look again at Romans 11. Look with me at verse seven. Romans 11:7 *"What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. (8) (According as it is written, (in three places in the OT – Deuteronomy 29:4; Jeremiah 5:21; and Ezekiel 12:2) God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day."*

Haven't you ever wondered why, of all the people in the world, why didn't the Jews accept Jesus as their Messiah?

Look again at the last five words of verse seven for Paul's answer; verse eight. Romans 11:7 *"... and the rest were blinded."*

The Bible teaches us that God has given the nation of Israel quote *"the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear..."*

I can't imagine anyone rejecting Jesus, the Perfect Jew as the Promised Jewish Messiah. But, Jews all over the world still reject Him.

And if they would read their own words, here's what they'd find. Deuteronomy 32:21 *"... I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation."*

Here it is in a nutshell. God allowed the Jews to reject His Son so that the Gentiles would *come to Him* and, as the Gentiles come to Christ, the Jews become jealous. So, how would you treat Jesus if you were spiritually Jewish, blind,

and jealous because Gentiles are claiming your Messiah as their LORD and Savior? Would you give Him respect? Or would you abuse the very name of Jesus?

Now, please hold onto Romans eleven and go with me to the words of Jesus in two passages. First, find Matthew 13. And then, we'll look at John chapter twelve. Here we'll find one of the many Old Testament passages telling us what God says to the Jews about the Jews.

Matthew 13:14 *"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: (15) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."*

And now look with me at John 12:37 *"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: (38) that the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, [in Isaiah 53:1] Lord, who hath believed our report? And to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?*

*(39) Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, (40) [in Isaiah 6:10] He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."*

Have you read your Bible as I read mine; verse 39? John 12:39 *"Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, (40) [in Isaiah 6:10] He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."*

The Jews, as a nation, on the whole, reject Jesus because the LORD has allowed them to be blind for a season and for a reason. In other words, God has closed the eyes of the Jew to their Messiah intentionally.

And Paul explains for us God's intention.

First, from Romans eleven, there's a Divine reason why don't the Jews get it? Because God has blinded them.

Second, without the blindness of Israel, the Gentiles would never come to the LORD. The Jews stumbled so that the Gentiles would be saved.

Now, go back with me again to Romans 11:11 *"I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. (12) Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? (13) For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: (14) if by any means I might provoke to emulation [jealousy] them which are my flesh, and might save some of them."*

God has allowed Israel to be blinded because He intends to save Gentiles and then, through the Gentiles, He intends to save Israel. So, why was Jesus so misunderstood, so mistreated, ridiculed and then rejected? Why is He so maligned today? Why do many Jewish homes not even allow the name of Jesus?

Because, by their rejection of their own Messiah, multitudes of Gentiles are being saved across the globe. And these multitudes of Gentiles will be and are being the means by which the nation of Israel will be saved.

Listen to the words of Paul in the very first chapter of the Book of Romans. Romans 1:16 *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ [Messiah]: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile."*

To the Jew first. Will we ever be able to comprehend why the LORD allows what He does as His will in this world? I don't think so. But, when we listen to Him; when He tells us that the reason He allowed the Jews to stumble is so that you and I could be saved, then we have just a little glimmer of

light in our spirits as to why there is ridicule and the experience of those things which you don't deserve.

You see, the Jews don't get it for a Divine Reason. And the Jews *still* stumble to this very day because God intends for *Gentiles* to be saved. And each Gentile that is saved becomes an awful reminder that their own Jewish Messiah has been, in one man's word "stolen" by the Gentiles. We, in a good way, provoke the Jews to jealousy.

So, you see, the LORD had a plan all along for why He allowed the Jews to so persecute Jesus that they came to despise and malign and reject Him. It's so that you could be saved.

Later on in Romans eleven Paul will explain this by using the picture of a tree. The Gentiles have been grafted into a Jewish tree and not vice versa. We exist because of Israel. We are saved because God called the Jewish nation into existence.

One day Jesus's apostles went on into a town to purchase food for lunch. Jesus stayed behind and sat down on the edge of a nearby well. While they were gone, a woman arrives, expecting to draw some water out of the well.

Listen to the conversation. John 4:6 "*Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.*

*(7) There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, give me to drink. (8) (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat [food].)*

*(9) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, how is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. (10) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

*(11) The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? (12) Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?*

*(13) Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: (14) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.*

*(15) The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. (16) Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. (17) The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: (18) for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*

*(19) The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. (20) Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. (21) Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews."*

We live, whether Samaritan or Gentile or Chinese or French because salvation is of the Jews.

First, from Romans eleven, there's a Divine reason why don't the Jews get it?

Second, without the blindness of Israel, the Gentiles would never come to the LORD.

Third, the LORD has good reason for both ridicule and reproach. Both David and Jesus said it; "... *the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*"

Our final passage is I Peter chapter four and verse fourteen. I Peter 4:14 "*If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy [blessed] are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

*(15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. (16) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."*

When you let a family member, a friend at work, even a stranger know you worship Jesus, you, in their eyes, sometimes fall into a separate category. And, as often happens, you might be reproached for the Name of Christ.

The Bible says "Blessed; happy are you" because on their part He is evil spoken of; but on your part He is glorified.

The next time, this week, when you hand someone the Good News in a tract; or when you speak up when someone has taken the Name of Jesus on their lips as a swear word, and you speak up for Him, and are then rejected for speaking up for the Name of the LORD, remember what the LORD says.

Shall we pray?

Hymn # 325 "Why Should He Love Me So?"