

Romans 11:9~10

We've all heard the expression... "What if the tables were turned?" An age old expression that referred to the using of something intended for one thing, and turning it around to be used for just the opposite. It was usually used to describe the "backfiring" of an evil plan. "To turn the table" would be well illustrated by a practical joke gone wrong. You've seen the timeless prank of placing a bucket full of water over a door, and then calling for someone to come in the room...thus when they open the door, the water pours out all over them. The "Turning of the table" would be, that the one who set up the prank, the one who put the bucket over the door...be the one who falls prey to the prank. What he meant for someone else has *been turned around* to be used on him. He becomes the victim of his own *sinister plot*. (It backfired...)

Well that's exactly what happened to Israel...In Condemning Christ...they Condemned themselves.

⁹And David saith, *Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them:* ¹⁰*Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always.*

Here Paul quotes from Psalms 69, declaring them to be *prophetic words* of God's Judgment upon Israel, *for their rejection* of Christ. Not only did Isaiah foretell of God's **blinding** of Israel, so did David. In Psalms 69:22~23, King David says...

²² *Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.* ²³ *Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.*

He speaks in metaphoric language, in that of the preparation of a table for dinner.

The *table* has always been a symbol of *blessing*... A place of bounty and blessing of the fruit of the ground, a place of fellowship and good times. I really enjoy sitting down to a good meal and fellowship with some friends. Eating is one of the greatest blessings we've been given from God.

The metaphor of a "Table" prepared evolves out of what David said in the previous verse...

²¹ *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

Gall is a bitter, poisonous herb... **Vinegar** is "Soured wine," wine that has been *over fermented*.

The point here is, the *food and drink* that Israel offered to their Messiah, wasn't fit even for one's enemy. Instead of a tasty, delicious meal fit for a king, the delicacies of the land, the best wine, Jesus was offered "Bitter, Poisonous food" and "Soured Wine" to drink.

Interestingly, "**vinegar**" is used only six times in the New Testament, and all six times is in reference to the vinegar that was given to Christ on the cross.

(**Matthew 27:33~34**) 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: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.*

It is amazing of the accuracy in which the O.T writings describe with such detail the crucifixion of Christ. Every facet of the crucifixion was foretold, even down to the smallest detail, even what He was offered to eat and drink.

As most scholars believe, the **gall and vinegar** weren't given in the context of satisfying the hunger and thirst of Christ, but rather it was administered for the purpose of *deadening the pain*. More like a crude form of painkiller. Even though it might be called somewhat of an act of mercy, seeking to relieve the one suffering with a painkiller, even so it came through bitterness and poison. The mercy in it is only that of

simply being “*Humane...*” My guess was, it wasn’t done so much for the one being crucified as it was commanded by the government to act humanely.

I find it interesting that Christ rejected the mixture... the first time. Beloved, Christ not only received the full weight of “*Our Sins,*” but He also endured “*All the suffering*” as a result of our sins! He suffered the fullness of our sin! There was no “*deadening*”... John tells us, that right before He did, “*knowing that all things were finished,*” that a man ran to Him with hyssop filled with vinegar, and He drank it, then cried with a loud voice, *it is finished,* and gave up the ghost.

The very God that Israel professed to love and honor with their lips, came to them. Through a young virgin named Mary, God took on the form of a man *in the person of Jesus Christ*. He came to them as the “*Promised Messiah or Deliver*” of Israel. But they would not have it! He had come and exposed their sinful, rebellious hearts, and called them to repentance. To which they rejected both his offer and HIM!

Here in Psalms 69, David describes both their treatment and rejection of Christ using the metaphoric language of that of a meal, a table that has been prepared... Israel being the Host, and Christ being the Guest, who had come to them. And rather than preparing Him a meal fit for a King, rather than showing Him the honor and respect so do Him, they offer Him poisonous food and ruined drink.

But the point is not the “*Food and Drink*” they offered him on the cross. True, they did physically offer them to Him, and David said this prophesying of that fact. He told them what they would do before they did it, and they were so blind, they couldn’t see it. But David’s words have a much deeper meaning. There symbolic of how Israel treated Him!

The *TABLE* prepared by Israel for Christ, Israel’s MESSIAH, was one of contempt, filled with bitterness, and wickedness.

Here, David describes the “*rejected savior*” as calling on God to *turn the tables*.

²² *Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.*

What they have prepared, the table they have set, let it become a “*Curse*” rather than a “*Blessing.*” Notice, “*that which should have been for their welfare...*” That which should have been for their good, their blessing... It is a reference to what God had given them, the Holy Scripture, the prophecies, the Law, etc... Israel was blessed above all other nations in that they were the recipients of God’s precious word. **But**, because they handled it with corrupt hearts, and tried to cover their sin, God would use what was intended to be a blessing for them, to bring about their destruction!

Listen, to possess the word of God, to hear the word of God, to know the word of God, and not HEED the word of God and repent...brings about GREATER DAMNATION!

(Matthew 10:14~15)...Rejection of Gospel...more tolerable than Sodom and Gomorrah...

(Matthew 11:20~24)...Jesus upbraids the cities for their unbelief...

(Matthew 12:38~42)...Nineveh, Nations, shall rise up in judgment against you...(They repented)

The more you know the more accountable you are! Knowing God’s word and not heeding it, turns what God meant for a blessing and turns it into a Curse!

All of this is a further explanation of what Paul said in Romans 10:3...

³*For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

The Righteousness they “*prepared or made*” Killed the Lord!

Outwardly, they may have “*appeared godly*” by the “*Righteousness*” produced by their adherence to the Law! But inwardly, they were full of iniquity...

The “*Righteousness*” Israel offered to God may have LOOKED good, and pleasing to the EYE...but was disgusting and deadly!

Its like a meal, that looks delicious, but tastes awful... Their hearts were dark and dirty, but they tried to hide it from God by covering it with the “*Cloak of Religion*.”

And as a result... God “*Turned the Tables*,” God would use the “*Righteousness*” they had made...their “*so-called goodness*,” and use it to “**Blind**” them to the Goodness of God...

So God turned the tables by allowing their “*GOODNESS*” to be their DOWNFALL!
What they had “*Fed to Christ*” would be turned right around and “*Fed to them*.” They would EAT of the fruit of their own hearts! It would be “*Self-Inflicted*” punishment...

What table have you prepared for the Lord?