

Road Trip Devotion - Romans 10:21

by Jake Christian, Adult Ministries Pastor

“But regarding Israel, God said, “All day long I opened my arms to them, but they were disobedient and rebellious.” (Romans 10:21; NLT)

It would have been quite disheartening for an ancient Jewish person to hear these words, because they point directly to the failure of the Jewish people to obey God’s commands. “They were disobedient and rebellious.” It’s not exactly how anyone would want to be known by God, is it? And I don’t know about you, but these words seem to describe me all too often. Like it or not, I see myself in here.

And yet this passage is absolutely filled with hope. “All day long I opened my arms to them.” Despite the Jewish people’s disobedience and rebellion, God continued to open his arms to them. He continued to love them. And he continued to be faithful to his promise to care for them - even though they had not lived up to their promises to follow the requirements of the Law. God would have had every right, according to the covenant he had made with them, to reject the Jewish people utterly. They had not held up their end of the covenant, and the penalties for their disobedience were severe. But God continually chose not to judge - to give them a little more time, to send another prophet to call them back, to allow them yet another chance to live as he had called them to live.

God did not give up on the Jewish people, despite their many shortcomings. And he deals with us in the same way. He offers grace to us time and time again - despite our many failures and shortcomings. And despite the times when we *choose* to disobey, knowing full well that we are not living in line with God’s will for our lives. God is faithful, even when we are not. We all fall short. We all fail. We all give in to sin despite our best efforts. How amazing it is to know that despite our many failures, God is always seeking after us, and always willing to take us back if we will simply repent, turn from our disobedience, and follow him once again.