

Romans 9: 1-5

Luke 14: 1-6

Today, in Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul is expressing his deep love but, at the same time, deep frustration for his kindred Jewish brothers and sisters. He shared their exclusive history of being formed to be God's holy nation. He would, "Willingly be cut off from Christ," if he could help his own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, and were given the glory and the covenants.... and the promises were made to them." But then Paul makes a critical point." Descended from the patriarchs and from their own flesh and blood came Christ, 'WHO IS ABOVE ALL, GOD FOR EVER BLESSED.' This fact was crucial to their future faith journey, as it is to our own. Jesus, sent by God had, by his death and resurrection, created a new Covenant of Love. And it was this covenant that they were, and we are, asked to follow.

Jesus' curing of the man with dropsy was an example to all present. It mattered not that it was the sabbath, or any other day. We are to follow Christ's example of love and compassion for our brothers and sisters, who are everyone in need. Jesus said, "Which of you here, if his son falls into a well, or his ox, will not pull him out on a sabbath day without hesitation? Note the reaction of the leading Pharisees. 'And to this they could find no answer.' Why? Because they were not tuned into the fact that the answer was the choice to LOVE.