The Wisdom Of God  
Romans 11:33-36

**Objective:** Help people trust and glorify God even when they don't understand what He is doing.

**Reading:** Romans 11:33-36

**Memory:** Romans 11:33, “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!”

**Introduction:**
1. Very difficult things come along, even in the lives of those who are seriously devoted to God.
2. So often, I don't understand how this works. Jesus healed people, raised them from the dead, restored eyesight. Stopped terrific storms, simply spoke and thousands of demons left people, so how come we still have to face hard things?
3. This I do know. There is a God. He has all power and authority in heaven and on earth. He is fully capable of more than we can ask or even imagine. He loves us beyond what we can imagine.
4. So how do we deal with facing hardships in life like persecutions, loss of jobs, and illnesses?

**We need to simply trust God and give Him glory.** (WHY?)

In Romans 11:33-36, the Apostle has just concluded some very difficult explanations revealed to him by God, about some difficult things dealing with why The Jews were hardened in heart in order to allow the Gentiles in on the Gospel of Christ and be saved. On getting a glimpse of how God works through all this, the apostle records for us this hymn of praise. *This hymn describes the attitude and thought we should have as God works His wonders even through such difficult ways.* (read it again). Here are some of the thoughts we should have as we deal with such wonderfully confusing truths;

*God knows stuff that we can’t begin to imagine. God has*

**I. Wisdom and knowledge incomprehensible to us.**

A. Eternal and cosmic things.
   1. Things seen and unseen, in heaven and on earth. Spiritual things infinitely beyond our grasp.
   2. Try to grasp the concept of “infinity”, “unending” …
   3. To glimpse the depth of this, looking out at Milky Way on clear night – *feel the depth* unsearchable!
   4. Ephesians 3:10-11, says that now, through the church, “...the manifold wisdom of God...” is being made known “...to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
   5. Even “little” things;
      a. Why did He create an ostrich – bird with wings that can’t fly”
      b. Why does He send rain on the just and the unjust alike?
      c. Why did He send His most beloved Son to the cross to die in anguish?
      d. Why make a “gospel” that sounds like foolishness to most men?
      e. Why speak so many things in parables?
   6. Who would have thought or dreamed of how God is working in Romans 11:28; *“As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,”*? Who really grasps such paradoxes? Who even today understands what God’s plan is for Israel and the Jews?
      a. We tend to think we know, then put such things in conflict and argue over them;
      b. To what extent are things “predestined”?
      c. Is there such a thing as “irresistible grace”?
      d. Will there be a thousand year reign here on planet earth? If so, what will it be like?
      e. I have opinions because I have studied. Other studied Christians disagree. - God knows!

B. Internal workings.
   1. How is it that God can know me so intimately? Read my heart meditations? (Every time I read the Scriptures is see secrets about myself being revealed!) How does He know!!!
   2. What changes are going on in men’s hearts even now? What changes is he/she capable of? We try to touch someone with the love of God, with the Gospel, but the result might not be visible for 70 years. We may never know that we touched people! . - God knows!
3. What will it take to change a man’s/woman’s heart? - God knows!
4. Sometimes it takes hard things for folks to learn and change, as in Psalm 119:67-68, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.” What is needed - God knows!

C. He doesn’t need our advice.
1. Like me telling Jet engine mechanic how to do his job.
2. God has it all worked out, and as He tells Habakkuk in 1:5, “Look at the nations and watch—and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” Like some explanation the professor gave me in Calculus class. I saw it worked and reasoned, but couldn’t work it myself. Just “Huh?”
3. Why does it often look to us like Satan and evil is winning then it turns out for the good somehow?
4. He even uses evil men with evil intentions to work out a good and holy result! (Pharaoh, brothers selling Joseph into slavery, Jews crucifying Christ!)
5. Aren’t you amazed that all the diverse stories in the Bible contain ONE glorious message!!
6. Who can comprehend how “grace” and “obedience” work together and balance out? How forgiveness and holiness coincide? Who can grasp both the kindness and severity of God?
7. Yet, how often do our prayers tell God what He should be doing?? Really we haven’t a clue.
8. I say, if you think you have it all figured out, get yourself ready for a glorious surprise – I’m sure God is working in ways beyond our depth of wisdom and knowledge! Trust Him. God knows!

The hymn also highlights the appropriate thought that

II. God doesn’t owe us anything. Romans 11:35, “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

A. We are His.
1. Not the other way around. He is the Captain of the ship.
2. So we trust Him and work for His glory.
3. As Solomon learned, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”

B. Not even an explanation!
1. He doesn’t have to tell us!
2. 1 Corinthians 2:6, says that “… we have the mind of Christ.”, but I would suggest that is pointing to privileged things Christians ARE given insight into. There remains an infinite wisdom of God we cannot yet comprehend or outsmart. Things God handles that we don’t have a need or ability to comprehend.
   a. Where does God come from? How does one understand the concept of “He always was”?
   b. Where does Satan come from? Why is he allowed to exist?
   c. Why is there evil in this world?
   d. How old IS Creation? We can and do guess – but don’t know and don’t really need to know.
3. But we do know that He loves us beyond comprehension.
   a. With a love that goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell …
   b. Tempting to say, “How does that work?” So often we don’t need to know!!!!
   c. So we trust Him and work for His glory. That is all we need to know.

C. We owe Him everything.
1. Air we breathe. Food we eat, Water we drink. Life itself. Our children. Everything we love comes from Him.
2. He IS the focus and purpose of everything! Including our lives and our purpose for existence.
   a. Colossians 1:16-18, “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”
3. Does anyone dare to think that because we did a good deed, because we put a $20 bill in the plate that God **owes** us something? It was already His to begin with!!

4. Does anyone dare think that because you bothered to come to church last week (maybe even got here in time for class) that God **owes** you something? That's like thinking, “God brought us all this food that we love! Now He should pay us for eating it!!!?? Absurd.

5. Everything is His already and always was to begin with!! As God tells the folk in **Job 41:11**, “Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.”

In the final analysis, in whatever surprises we have, in whatever difficulties we may be called on to face in life we should understand our role and place. Our determination and thought should always be

**III. We are to God’s honor and glory.** Romans 11:36, “For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

**A. Determine to honor God with our lives.**

1. Be it in sickness or health. Through the good and the bad
2. Whatever He places before us. (Stop and think what is going on in your life right now – LIST)
3. Work to bring Him glory and to glorify Him in whatever He decides to do in His great wisdom.
   a. In our personal lives. - Help me stand strong and faithful unto death.
   b. In the lives of our loved ones. - I love them. So does He. He understands better than I do how strong they are, what they need spiritually, how He can use them to His glory.
   c. In the life of our nation. Whatever spiritual / cosmic things are going on in our politics, in nations’ conflicts, I will be godly and live morally and generously. To God’s glory!
   d. I will praise Him with my words and actions even when I don’t understand!

**B. Trust and know that God has good and glorious things in store.**

1. We will stand amazed. Man always does. How many times have you looked at a view, or a circumstance and stood amazed at the workings of God?
2. How many times have you thought “I can’t do that”, or “That can never happen”, then stood amazed as God did it?
3. How many times have you read in Scripture as His plan is revealed and stood amazed?
   a. In Abrahams, life?
   b. In the lineage to Christ the Holy One coming through harlots and sinners?
   c. In God working out His will and keeping His promises and showing His love in spite of man’s and Satan’s best efforts to divert it?
   d. Peter was astounded in **Acts 10** when he realized that it was God’s plan for the Gentiles to come in to the church and be His people also!
4. I will see God glorified. I know it. Lord, help me be a part of it!!

**So What?**

So much of what happens is not my plan. It is not the way I would do things. Life takes turns I don’t like and we face hardships, disasters, tribulations I would avoid it it were up to me. But it’s not. I encourage you to **trust God and make a clear determination to glorify Him no matter what happens in life**.

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

**Closing Prayer:**
**The Wisdom Of God**  
**Romans 11:33-36**

**Reading:** Romans 11:33-36.  
**Memory:** Romans 11:33

“O_, t_ d_ o_ t_ r_ o_ t_ w_ a_ k_ o_ G_!  H_ u_ h_ j_, a_ h_ p_ b_ t_ o_!”

**We need to simply trust God and give Him glory.**  
This hymn describes the attitude and thought we should have as God works His wonders even through such difficult ways.

**I. Wisdom and knowledge incomprehensible to us.**  
A. Eternal and cosmic things.  
   Ephesians 3:10-11  
   Romans 11:28

B. Internal workings.  
   Psalm 119:67-68

C. He doesn't need our advice.  
   Habakkuk 1:5

**II. God doesn't owe us anything.**  
A. We are His.  
   Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

B. Not even an explanation!

C. We owe Him everything.  
   Colossians 1:16-18  
   Job 41:11

**III. We are to God's honor and glory.**  
A. Determine to honor God with our lives.

B. Trust and know that God has good and glorious things in store.

**So What?**  
Trust God and glorify Him no matter what happens in life.