

## Our Jewish Roots: Biblical Insights from the Rabbis

Paul says that we Gentile Christians have been grafted on to a tree with Jewish roots, which provide the rich sap that feeds us and produces fruit in our lives (Rom. 11:17-18). Jesus suggests that all you need to know for salvation is in Moses and the Prophets (Luke 16:29-31), and when he is asked about eternal life, he points people to Torah (Matt. 19:16; Mark 10:17; Luke 10:25; 18:18). Yet the anti-Judaism of our Christian tradition has blinded us to those fundamental biblical truths. In this class I want to look at Torah with the help of Jewish rabbis, both ancient and modern, whose insights will enlighten and challenge us with different perspectives on the Scriptures, on God, and on our place in the world. We will take hold of (more than one) Jew and walk with them because we have heard that God is with them (Zech. 8:23).

### I. Introduction

- A. Who Are The Rabbis?
- B. Why the Rabbis?

### II. Torah: The Big Picture

- A. The Canonical Story
- B. Torah's Revolutionary Narrative
- C. God's Faith in Us

### III. A Closer Look

- A. Partners with God in Creation
- B. The Danger of God's Blessing
- C. Doing Something for God
- D. Making a Home for God
- E. Sanctifying the Name
- F. Faith as Protest
- G. A Strange Kind of Justice
- H. The Problem with "Love Your Neighbor As Yourself"
- I. The Third Love Command
- J. Love is Not Enough
- K. The Gift of Sacrifices: Shared Joy
- L. Sacrifices: The Fruit of Repentance
- M. *Shabbat Shalom*
- N. Keeping Kosher
- O. The Fear of the Lord

### IV. Conclusions: Life Before Death

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