

## Marinating in God's Word: Obadiah 10-17, Romans 5:8-9

Ask about a favorite book of the Bible, and you're not likely to someone cite the Minor Prophets. And yet we hear God's word through them too. Thus we're focusing this summer on a portion of the Bible we tend not to know very well.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- The peoples of Israel and Edom were kinfolks, but there was bad blood going all the way back to their ancestors, brothers Jacob and Esau. So when Edom joined in Babylon's plunder of Jerusalem, there was more than a little anger. Where do you see that anger toward Edom in Obadiah's words? Have you or someone you know ever been abused by family? What happened? Was there anger? Was it justifiable?
- One reason Obadiah is not anyone's favorite book is that it is so filled with anger. God's anger is even harder for us to sort out, much less appreciate. Can a God of love be angry, be wrathful? Can God's wrath toward evil be part of the good news? How so?
- You might say Obadiah is a hellfire and brimstone preacher. He could turn on the heat. Is there any hint of salvation in his short book? (Check out vv. 17 and 21.) What is the good news?
- It's hard to resolve questions about God's wrath and judgment from Obadiah alone. And the Lord never intended that we would – thus the fuller witness in the broader scripture. What does Romans tell us that God did with his wrath? How does Romans pair the wrath and love of God? What does that tell you about your salvation in Jesus?

Next week Nelson Ould will lead us in our focus on Hosea.