



The Mystery of the Olive Tree

Sunday, October 31, 2021

Text: Romans 11:11 – 24

The Lord once called you a green olive tree, beautiful with good fruit. But with the roar of a great tempest, He will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. The Lord of hosts who planted you, has decreed disaster against you, because of the evil... provoking me to anger.... – Jer. 11:16 – 17

For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.
- Romans 11:24

Fruit reveals the nature of the tree from which it comes. What is the secret of bearing fruit that abides? The answer is simple. It is as our life abides in Christ – as we abide in Him – that the fruit we bear will abide. The more we allow human will and effort to be cut down and cleaned away by the divine Husbandman, the more intensely we withdraw from the outward world. Then God may work in us by His Spirit. The more we abide in Christ, the more will our fruit abide.

- Andrew Murray, *The True Vine*

1. The Root of the Olive Tree

- A Holy Root (11:16)
- A Nourishing Root (11:17)

2. The Branches of the Olive Tree

- The Branch of Holy Humility (11:18, 20, 25)
- The Branch of Holy Jealousy (11:11 – 16)

3. The Fruit of the Olive Tree

- Salvation and Reconciliation of the World (11:11 – 15)
- Life from the Dead (11:15)

4. Living a Life that Abides by Faith (John 15)



Study and Discussion Questions –

The Mystery of the Olive Tree

Romans 11:11 - 24

Open It

1. What is your favorite fruit? Why?
2. What success have you had with gardening? Have you ever grafted a branch on a tree?

Explore It

3. What hope do the Jews ever have of recovering their relationship with God? (11:11)
4. How have Gentiles been helped by the Jews' rejection of God's salvation plan? (11:11-12)
5. How did Paul hope his own people would respond to his ministry among the Gentiles? (11:13-14)
6. In the metaphor of the Olive Tree, what did Paul liken the Gentiles to? (11:17)
7. Why do we need to be careful not to boast that God has reached out to us? (11:18)
8. To whom does God show severity and to whom does He show kindness? (11:22)
9. What is promised to Jews who do not persist in unbelief, but turn to Christ? (11:23)

Get It

10. What lessons can we draw from Paul's analogy of the olive tree?
11. How would the repentance of Israel affect the world?
12. How could the kind of envy Paul described help lead a person to Christ?
13. For what reasons could a Gentile be tempted to feel superior to a Jew?
14. What attitude should we have toward the fact that God has chosen to reach out to us?

Apply It

15. What has God used most in your life to humble you? And how do you seek to humble yourself?
16. When you think about the Vine and the Branches of John 15, what does 'abide' mean to you?
17. What can you do this week to acknowledge that you depend on God's kindness?
18. What people are in your life that God is asking you to pray for, and love and share Christ with?