

June 7, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

Romans: For Today's World –Chapter 11

“One Table, One Savior: The Story of Grafted Grace”

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. *“Romans For Today's World”* highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Intro: One Table, One Savior: The Story of Grafted Grace reminds us through Romans Chapter 11 that God's faithfulness and mercy break down every barrier, grafting us all—Jew and Gentile, broken and whole—into one family in Christ. This message sets the stage for our Lord's Table celebration of the miracle of grace at Calvary, where all are welcomed and made one by our Savior.

Romans 11 for today: Imagine a table set by the Lord Himself—a table where the story of Israel and the Gentiles unfolds like a tapestry of grace. Picture the Apostle Paul, standing before us, wrestling with the question: *“Has God rejected His people?”* No, Paul declares, for God's faithfulness is deeper than our doubts, His promises older than our failures.

Paul reminds us that even when the branches seem broken, the Root—God's covenant love—remains unshaken. Some hearts are hardened, some eyes are closed, but God's mercy is relentless, grafting in those once far off, making room for all who believe. The story is not about who's in or who's out by birth, but about the God Who calls, Who chooses, Who redeems—inviting us all to the table of His grace.

But Paul doesn't stop there. He paints a picture of hope for Israel, declaring that their stumbling is not their end. God's plan is bigger than our understanding, and what looks like rejection is really an opportunity for redemption. Through Israel's stumbling, salvation has come to the Gentiles, and through the Gentiles, God stirs a holy jealousy in Israel, so that all might be drawn back to Him. The branches that were broken off are not forgotten; God's power can graft them in again. In this divine mystery, we see a God Who never gives up, Who weaves every story—Jew and Gentile, near and far—into His redemptive plan.

Paul urges humility for those who have been grafted in. He warns the Gentiles not to boast, for it is by God's kindness alone that anyone stands. The Root supports the branches, not the other way around. God's kindness and severity walk hand in hand—He is just, but He is also merciful, always ready to restore those Who turn back to Him. In the end, Paul bursts into praise, overwhelmed by the depth of God's wisdom and the riches of His mercy.

Romans 8:36... *“For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All glory to Him forever! Amen”*.

Lesson Point 1: God's Faithfulness Is Unshakeable, Even When We Stumble...*(Romans 11:1–6)*

¹ *I ask, then, has God rejected His own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.* ² *No, God has not rejected His own people, Whom He chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said,* ³ *“Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.”* ⁴ *And do you remember God's reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others Who have never bowed down to Baal!”* ⁵ *It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God's grace—His undeserved kindness in choosing them.* ⁶ *And since it is through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God's grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.*

God's story with His people is not a straight line—it's a journey marked by faithfulness on His part, even when we falter. Paul asks, ***“Has God rejected His people?”*** and answers with a resounding ***“No!”*** (Romans 11:1). Even when Israel stumbled, even when their hearts were hardened, God's promises remained (Romans 11:2–5). He preserved a remnant, a faithful few, not because of their works, but because of His grace (Romans 11:5–6). This is the same grace that reaches us today. We, too, have moments of stumbling—times when our faith wavers, when we feel distant or unworthy. But God's faithfulness is not dependent on our performance. He is the Root that nourishes us, the steady hand that holds us fast (Romans 11:16–18).

When we come to the Lord's table, we are reminded that it is not our worthiness that brings us here, but His unwavering love. The bread and the cup are not rewards for the righteous, but gifts for the needy—signs that God's faithfulness endures, even when we fall short.

Lesson Point 2: God's Mercy Welcomes All—No One Is Beyond His Reach...*(Romans 11:11–15)*

¹¹ **Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But He wanted His own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves.** ¹² **Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.** ¹³ **I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the Apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this,** ¹⁴ **for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them.** ¹⁵ **For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those Who were dead!**

Paul's imagery of grafting branches is a powerful reminder that God's mercy knows no boundaries (Romans 11:17–24). The Gentiles, once outsiders, have been grafted into the tree of God's people (Romans 11:17). But Paul warns against pride—reminding us that it is God's kindness, not our own merit, that brings us in (Rom. 11:20–22). And just as God grafted in wild branches, He can restore the broken ones (Rom. 11:23–24). No one is beyond His reach.

Maybe you feel like an outsider today—like you don't belong, like your past disqualifies you. Or maybe you've been part of the church for years, but your heart has grown cold. The good news is that God's mercy is for everyone. The Lord's Supper is a living illustration of this truth: *at Christ's table, there are no outsiders*. All who trust in Him are welcomed, nourished, and made part of His family. As we prepare to partake in a few moments, let us remember that God's mercy is wide enough to embrace us all, and His grace is deep enough to restore every broken branch.

Lesson Point 3: Humility and Gratitude Are the Only Right Responses to God's Grace... (Rom. 11:18–22, 33–36)

¹⁸ *But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the Root.* ¹⁹ *“Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.”* ²⁰ *Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen.* ²¹ *For if God did not spare the original branches, He won't spare you either.* ²² *Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those Who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in His kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.*

Paul's teaching leads us to a place of humility. He cautions the Gentile believers not to boast over the branches that were broken off: ***“Do not be arrogant, but tremble”*** (Romans 11:20). Why? Because it is by grace alone that we stand (Romans 11:18–22). The Lord's Supper is the great equalizer—at this table, all pride is laid down. We come not as those who have earned a

place, but as those who have received a gift. Gratitude wells up when we realize the depth of God's wisdom and the riches of His mercy. Paul ends this chapter in doxology: ³³ ***Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!*** ³⁴ ***For Who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give Him advice?*** ³⁵ ***And Who has given Him so much that He needs to pay it back?*** ³⁶ ***For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All glory to Him forever! Amen.*** **Conclusion:** And so, as we prepare to come to the Lord's Supper, let us do so with humble hearts, grateful for the grace that grafts us in, sustains us, and unites us as one body in Christ. Let us marvel together at the mystery of God's plan—a plan that brings together the lost and the found, the near and the far, at one table, under one Savior. The bread and the cup are reminders that His mercy is for everyone, that His covenant is unbreakable, and that all glory belongs to Him forever (Romans 11:29, 36). As we eat and drink, we proclaim the mystery: that in Christ, we are one body, rooted in grace, gathered by love, and sustained by the faithfulness of our Savior. So let us come with humility, gratitude, and awe, knowing that we are invited not by our own merit, but by His amazing grace. Let us remember that at this table, every barrier falls, and all are welcome to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Invitation: Let us take this invitation time as an opportunity to call on the Lord in prayer and confess any sins or fears to the Lord. It is also a time for any of you who have not trusted Jesus as Savior to come and be born again and accept Christ.

Romans 11 (New Living Translation)

1 I ask, then, has God rejected His own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** No, God has not rejected His own people, Whom He chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, **3** “Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” **4** And do you remember God’s reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others Who have never bowed down to Baal!” **5** It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace—His undeserved kindness in choosing them. **6** And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved. **7** So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened. **8** As the Scriptures say, *“God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day He has shut their eyes so they do not see and closed their ears so they do not hear.”*

9 Likewise, David said, *“Let their bountiful table become a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well. Let their blessings cause them to stumble, and let them get what they deserve. 10 Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and let their backs be bent forever.”*

11 Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But He wanted His own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. **12** Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned

down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.

13 I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the Apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, **14** for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. **15** For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those Who were dead! **16** And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too. **17** But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, Who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and His children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree. **18** But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the Root. **19** “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” **20** Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. **21** For if God did not spare the original branches, He won’t spare you either. **22** Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those Who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in His kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off. **23** And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. **24** You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So, if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into

His cultivated tree, He will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.

25 I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. **26** And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say,

“The One Who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and He will turn Israel away from ungodliness. 27 And this is My covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.”

28 Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people He loves because He chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. **29** For God’s gifts and His call can never be withdrawn. **30** Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against Him, God was merciful to you instead. **31** Now they are the rebels, and God’s mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God’s mercy. **32** For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so He could have mercy on everyone. **33** Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways! **34** For Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give Him advice? **35** And Who has given Him so much that He needs to pay it back? **36** For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory. All glory to Him forever! Amen.

New Living Translation (NLT)

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