

November 30th, 2025

Olive Trees & the Gospel
Romans 11

If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.
Romans 11:16–21 (NIV)

OVERVIEW

- There is always a remnant (vv. 1-10)
- How Israel’s rejection led to the Gentiles’ salvation (vv. 11–16)
- A lesson from an olive tree: Salvation is about grace, not arrogance (vv. 16–32)
- The unsearchable wisdom of God (vv. 33-36)

Lessons From An Olive Tree

1. God doesn’t _____ on us.
Rom 11:1, 11; John 21:16
2. Trade pride for _____.
Rom 11:18, 20; John 15:5-6
3. Be OK with not _____ everything.
Rom 11:33-36

TALK IT OVER

Because we believe that the sharing of our ideas and beliefs enhances our spiritual growth in ways teaching alone cannot - we encourage you to join a small group at Sunridge and discuss some of the following questions.

What stood out most from this message, and why?

Paul insists that Israel’s rejection is not final (Rom. 11:1, 11). Where have you experienced moments of feeling like giving up on yourself—or like God might give up on you? How does this passage reshape that perspective?

Paul warns Gentile believers not to be arrogant but to “tremble” (Rom. 11:20). In what ways can pride creep into our faith today—whether through theology, morality, or lifestyle? How can gratitude become the antidote?

The olive tree metaphor reminds us that both Jews and Gentiles depend on the same root. How might this truth challenge the way we view outsiders, people from different backgrounds, or even other denominations? What does it look like to live humbly as branches supported by the root?

Paul ends chapter 11 not with full explanations, but with worship (Rom. 11:33–36). How do you respond to unanswered questions in your faith journey? What practices help you move from doubt to trust in God’s wisdom?



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