

Romans 11:17-36

The Allegory of the Olive Tree

What is the deep spiritual truth we learn from the allegory of the Olive Tree?

Israel: The Cultivated Olive Tree

Carefully _____ tended _____ and _____ pruned _____ for centuries

Planted with the _____ loving _____ care _____ of the LORD

Has the _____ rich _____ and _____ nourishing _____ root of God's
_____ promises _____

The natural branches are God's _____ chosen _____ people _____

Gentiles: The Wild Olive Shoot

Once _____ excluded _____ from the commonwealth of Israel

Once _____ strangers _____ to the _____ covenants _____ of
_____ promise _____

Without _____ hope _____

Without _____ God _____

But Now: Wild Olive Shoots are Grafted In

Now, the holy root of God's promises _____ supports _____ and _____ sustains _____

both _____ wild _____ and _____ natural _____ branches.

Now, _____ natural _____ branches and _____ wild _____ branches

_____ flourish _____ and _____ grow _____ alongside one other.

Stunted Growth

_____ Arrogance _____ and _____ pride _____ stunt the growth of the
_____ whole _____ tree.

Paul Admonishes the Wild Shoots

Do not be _____ arrogant _____ toward the natural branches

Do not become _____ proud _____

But rather, _____ fear _____

Note the _____ kindness _____ and _____ severity _____ of God

Amazing Grace

It is God who _____ grafts _____ you in

It is God who _____ tends _____ and _____ prunes _____ you

It is God who _____ enables _____ you to _____ flourish _____ and
_____ bear _____ fruit _____

In the first eleven chapters of Romans, Paul has shared his comprehensive account of the gospel. John Stott writes, *“Step by step Paul has shown how God has revealed His way of putting sinners right with Himself, how Christ died for our sins and was raised for our justification, how we are united with Christ in His death and resurrection, how the Christian life is lived not under law but in the Spirit, and how God plans to incorporate the fullness of Israel and of the Gentiles into His new community. Paul’s horizons are vast. He takes in time and eternity, history and eschatology, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Now he stops, out of breath. Analysis and argument must give way to adoration.”*