

- Last week, it was made clear to us by Paul that God is not finished with the nation of Israel.
- For a time, the Jews have been in a stupor regarding salvation by faith in Christ and last week, I explained the first fruits.

<sup>16</sup> *If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy;* Just like the Jews are holy (separate) because they come from Abraham . . . *if the root is holy, so are the branches.*

- **What is the Root?** Israel was referred to as a root back in Isaiah 27:6 *In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.* – **What’s that mean?** God promised to bless Israel and make Israel a blessing to all the other nations.
- **The nation of Israel is the root or the tree and People are branches.** **You can’t belong to God separate from Israel.** You either naturally belong as a Jew and continue to Israel by trusting in Jesus, or you are grafted in by faith in Jesus, God’s Jewish Messiah.

<sup>17</sup> *If some of the branches have been broken off,* **WHO?** Jews not in pews.

- **Why are branches removed from a tree? Not producing fruit.** Isaiah said Israel will fill the world with fruit. Bless the world. *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,*
- **He calls the Gentiles, “Wild Olive Shoots”.**
- Paul is saying that Gentiles have been grafted into Israel alongside the Israelites and that this is contrary to nature.

**Grafting is connecting a branch from another type of tree to get the benefits of both. Each part of the tree keeps its original character.**

- Let’s say the root tree is resistant to disease but has lousy fruit, but the grafted branches have good fruit. You get good fruit on a tree resistant to disease.
- **Wild olive trees** are known for having **hard bitter-tasting fruit with large stony pits but grow vigorously.** (shoots from these represent Gentiles)
- **Cultivated olive trees,** on the other hand, **produce fleshy, juicy nice tasting fruit with smaller pits.** (represent Israel) (branches rep. Jews)

**QUESTION- Why would you graft branches that bear bad fruit into a good tree?**

- **In Leon Morris’ commentary he says,** “When an old olive tree had lost its vigor, it seems that one remedy in antiquity was to cut away the failing branches and graft in some wild olive shoots. The result was said to be the invigoration of the failing tree.”

**QUESTION- Why would you graft branches that bear bad fruit into a good tree?**

- 1) **It reinvigorates the Tree.** (Gentiles reinvigorate Israel) **Make Envious.** Romans 11:11b *“Salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.”*
- 2) **God is creating for Himself One people that will yield the best fruit by using the best qualities of each nationality.**

<sup>17</sup> *If some of the branches have been broken off* (Jews who rejected Christ), *and you, though a wild olive shoot* (Gentiles), *have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root,* <sup>18</sup> *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.* **Gentiles. Don’t think you are better than the Jews because there are more or you right now. They naturally belong to the tree and you’re in implant. You are a part of Israel not the other way around.**

<sup>19</sup> *You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.”* As Gentiles we might argue, “But we are superior” that’s the reason we were grafted. They we cut off for being inferior and we were grafted in. We must be better than what was cut off. <sup>20</sup> *Granted. So, he grants them that, but. . . But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith.* It wasn’t because they by nature are inferior, but because they didn’t believe. **Belief is the deciding factor. Do not be arrogant, but tremble.** <sup>21</sup> *For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.* <sup>22</sup> *Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*

- **So, God is both Kind and Stern. Stern that He will not spare the branch of Jews that don’t believe. But Kind that he will graft in Gentiles who don’t deserve or naturally belong connected to Israel.** **If God cut off some of the natural branches (Jews), don’t think he won’t cut off unnatural branches (gentiles) for unbelief.**

<sup>23</sup> *And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. Because God is kind* <sup>24</sup> *After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!*

**If God grafted unnatural branches (gentiles) into Israel, don’t think God won’t readily graft natural branches (Jews) back into Israel.**

<sup>25</sup> *I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: What’s the Mystery? How is it that the Jews don’t recognize Jesus as the Messiah?*

- **And problem is that Gentile’s could get cocky because there’s more of them in the Pews than Jews.**
- **Pride is the result of Ignorance.** So, Paul will give them truth to keep them from falling from this particular type of pride.

- **So, here is the answer to the Mystery.**

*Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, <sup>26</sup> and in this way all Israel will be saved.*

**God has for a time turned the focus of His saving mercy away from Israel to the Gentiles, but when God has finished bringing in the Gentiles, He will once again turn His focus specifically on Israel.**

- **Does that mean that every Jew will put their faith in Christ? No. Just like not every single Jew rejected Christ.**
- **What religion does Israel practice now?** Judaism. The nation will become Christian. Which is really the TRUE Intent of Judaism.

*As it is written: “The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. <sup>27</sup> And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” <sup>28</sup> As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs,*

- **Even if it looks like the Jews in Paul’s day are enemies of God and are anti-Jesus, God still loves them if for no other reason, for the sake of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.**
- **God made a promise to those patriarchs, and He keeps his promises.**  
*<sup>29</sup> for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. <sup>32</sup> For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.*
- **The door is wide open for the Jews to come back and be grafted back into Israel by trusting in Jesus?**

**Watch for this: The Country of Israel turning to Jesus as a nation. Jews in droves turning to Christ. Imagine Israel as a Christian Nation.**

- The message for us is that *“when the full measure of Gentiles has come in”*, we will see a turning of the Jews to Christ.
- **If you have not reconciled to God through Christ, you still have time?**
- **One last comment. If you are a Gentile who has been grafted into Israel, you are a wild shoot. What did we learn about their nature? Vigorous but lousy bitter fruit.**

**What does God do with the bad fruit of wild olive shoots (gentiles)?**

- **God does a miracle in us, Gentiles. He changes us by giving us His Spirit, so we produce the big, fat, wonderful fruit of the Spirit.**