

A Warning For The Rest Of Us

Romans 11:17-24

Pro presenter

Main Idea: There is one Lord and one Church. All who believe are part of that one church in the one Lord, but all who refuse to believe are cut off from the Lord and His Church. This truth should produce a humble, grateful people who fear the Lord and stand fast in our One Hope.

There is one story...

Are we eternally secure, or might God cut us off too?

Why does God warn believers so sternly?

One Gardener [One Lord]



There is One Olive tree [One Church] (vv.16-18)



The Olive Tree Explained (vv.16-18)

ONE OLIVE TREE

GOD'S PLAN OF MERCY: FROM ISRAEL TO THE NATIONS
ROMANS 11:17-24

"But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. But if you are arrogant, remember it is not you that supports the root, but the root that supports you." (v. 17-18)



**BATTLEGROUND
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

ISRAEL

THE CULTIVATED OLIVE TREE
vv. 17a, 24

- God's cultivated tree
- Given the covenants, promises, and the Law
- Oriented to produce righteous fruit
- Some natural branches were broken off because of unbelief (v. 20, cf. v. 19)

GENTILES

THE WILD OLIVE TREE
vv. 17b, 21-24

- By nature, wild (not cultivated)
- Had no share in the root and fatness
- Grafted in by God's grace because of faith in Christ
- Now share in the rich blessings of the root

THE PICTURE PAUL USES

ONE ROOT, ONE TREE
The root is holy (v. 16) — the patriarchs and God's promises to them.

GRAFTED IN
Contrary to nature, you (Gentiles) were grafted in among the remaining branches (v. 17). You share in the root and fatness (vv. 17c, 18).

DO NOT BE ARROGANT
If God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you (v. 18-21).

SHARED BLESSINGS
The nourishment of the root (the promises and blessings of God) now flows to both natural and grafted branches.

GOD CAN GRAFT AGAIN
If God can graft you in, He is able to graft them in again (vv. 22-24).

THE BIG IDEA:

Through the cross, Gentiles are grafted into God's people not as replacements, but as fellow partakers of the promises made to Israel, all to the glory of His mercy.



SOURCE: Bos, Kenneth, and William Kruidenier. 2000. Romans. Vol. 6. Holman New Testament Commentary. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

So What?

Will we heed the Lord's warning? (**vv.18-21**)

- Do not be arrogant **Hebrews 2:3**
 - But always live in the fear of the Lord
- Do not forget the character of the Gardener **Titus 3:4-5; Hebrews 10:26-31**
 - But always living in the kindness of the Lord

Will we embrace the Lord's hope? (**vv. 22-24**)

- Since God grafted in the undeserving Gentiles by grace through faith
- God will also graft in the Jews who embrace their Messiah by faith
- God is still grafting the undeserving into his forever family

Will we stand firm, persevering to the end?

- Right belief brings right actions: The doctrine of perseverance
- **Matthew 24:3-13**

Now What?

Read Matthew 13:24-43 and reflect on the following questions:

Main Idea: Jesus teaches that His kingdom grows in a fallen world where believers and unbelievers exist together until the final judgment. God's patience should not be mistaken for passivity. At the appointed time, Christ will separate the righteous from the wicked, vindicating His people and displaying His perfect justice.

**Why does Jesus forbid the servants from pulling up the weeds immediately?
What does this teach us about God's patience and the nature of His kingdom?
(vv. 24–30, 36–39)**

- Why were the servants so eager to remove the weeds?
- Why does the master tell them to wait?
- What does this reveal about God's wisdom and timing?
- How does this challenge our expectations about life?

Thoughts:

- Christ reigns now, but His kingdom has not yet been fully consummated (come).
- God sovereignly permits both believers and unbelievers to remain together until His appointed time of judgment.
- His delay displays both His patience and control over history (Peter 3:9).

Takeaway: God's patience (kindness) never compromises His justice.

Jesus identifies the good seed as "the sons of the kingdom." What does this teach us about the work of God in salvation? (vv. 37–38)

- Who plants the good seed?
- Who plants the weeds?
- What does this imagery tell us about where true believers come from?
- Can there be “weeds” in your church and family?

Thoughts:

- The good seed does not produce itself. Christ plants His people.
- Salvation begins with God's initiative, not ours (John 6:37, 44; Ephesians 2:1–10).
- Every genuine believer is the result of God's sovereign grace. Yet Christ still uses the preaching of the gospel as the means by which He gathers His own.

Takeaway: Salvation belongs to the Lord from beginning to end.

What do Jesus' descriptions of the final judgment and the final glory teach us about God's justice, His promises, and our future? (vv. 40–43)

- Why does Jesus spend so much time describing the coming judgment?
- What encouragement is offered to believers?
- How should the certainty of judgment shape the way we live today?
- Why is it important to hold together both God's justice and His mercy?

Thoughts:

- Christ's return will bring perfect justice.
- Evil will not simply disappear; it will be judged.
- Likewise, believers are not merely rescued from wrath—they are glorified with Christ.
- God's justice and grace meet perfectly in His redemptive plan.

Takeaway: The final judgment is both a warning to the unbeliever and a comfort to the believer.

Jesus concludes, "He who has ears, let him hear." How should kingdom citizens live while waiting for the harvest? (v. 43)

Discuss

- What does it mean to "have ears to hear"?
- How should Christians respond when evil appears to prosper?
- What kind of patience, holiness, and hope should characterize God's people?
- How does this parable encourage perseverance in the Christian life?

Thoughts:

- Believers persevere because God preserves them. Yet, all believers are called to actively persevere.
- The certainty of the coming harvest motivates faithful endurance rather than fear of the present or future.
- We trust the Lord to accomplish His purposes while we faithfully proclaim the gospel and pursue holiness.

Takeaway: Christians live with patient confidence because Christ is both the Sower and the coming Judge (Reaper).

The so what to the now what:

- This parable reminds us that appearances can be deceiving.
- The church we see and the world contain both genuine believers and those who merely appear to belong to Christ(counterfeits).
- Our hope is not in creating a perfectly pure society now but in the certainty that Christ will one day make all things right.
- Our Hope is that the Lord's church is made up of the redeemed

Until then, believers are called to:

- Trust God's sovereign timing.
- Rest in His sovereign grace.
- Persevere in holiness, faithfulness, and obedience.
- Proclaim the gospel while there is still time.
- Live with joyful anticipation of Christ's return.

"Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear." — **Matthew 13:43 (ESV)**