



PRIDE!

Beware the Pitfalls of Spiritual Pride

Lesson 27 • Romans 11:16-26

Overview of the Mystery of God's Majestic Mission of Mercy in Romans 11

The PHASES of the MYSTERY 11:11-15, 25-29	The PICTURES of the MYSTERY 11:16-24	The PURPOSE of the MYSTERY 11:30-36
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial Rejection of Israel as a Nation Full Number of Gentile Salvation Future Salvation of All Israel as a Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Small Lump of Dough & the Whole Lump The Root of the Olive Tree & the Branches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To justly judge all sinners—Jews & Gentiles To mercifully save some—Jews & Gentiles To show God's wisdom & ways are greater than ours, so He gets all the glory!

- The **Phases of the Mystery** taught us that God has not rejected Israel **FOREVER**: *They have stumbled but not fallen!* (vv. 11-15, 25-29)
- The **Pictures of the Mystery** remind us that the remnant of believing Jews in the Church is God's sovereign promise of **MORE TO COME** in the future: *All Israel will one day be saved as a nation!* (vv. 16, 26)
 - 1) Picture from Baking: The **small lump of dough** offered up as **firstfruits** pictures the remnant as a **small part** of the **larger whole and** promises more to come in the future.
 - 2) Picture from Gardening: The **root** and the **branches** picture God's sovereign purposes and salvation promises as the **source of life** (the root) for peoples (the branches), not the other way around.

Cultivated Olive Tree

God's Saving Purpose for His People—Believing Jew & Gentile

Natural Olive Branches
Believing Jewish Remnant

Natural Olive Branches Cut Off
Unbelieving Jewish Nation

Natural Branches Grafted in Again
Believing Jewish Nation in the Future

Life-giving Sap & Nourishing Root
God's Salvation Blessings



Wild Olive Tree
Gentile Nations

Wild Olive Shoots Grafted In
Believing Gentiles

Grafting In & Cutting Off
God's Sovereign Mercy & Judgment

The Root

God's Sovereign Election of and Saving Promises Made to Abraham and His Seed (11:28-29)

Observations:

- 1) There is only one tree (God's saving purposes for His people) and if you are not in that tree you are lost.
- 2) Even though there is one tree, the branches maintain their ethnic diversity.

- 3) The 3 phases of the mystery are repeated: *Natural branches (Israel as a nation) are cut off, wild branches (Gentiles) are grafted in, natural branches (Israel as a nation) are grafted in again in the future.*
- 4) The root and tree is naturally Jewish—*Salvation is from the Jews!* John 4:22; Romans 9:4-5; 1:1-6
- 5) Divine sovereignty is emphasized without eliminating human responsibility. Romans 11:18, 23



The Picture of the Olive Tree Warns Us of the PITFALLS of Spiritual Pride

- Pride comes **before** a fall! Proverbs 16:18
- Pride also comes **because others** fall!
- Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands **take heed** lest he fall. 1Corinthians 10:12; Romans 11:20-22

Watch Out for the Pitfalls of Spiritual Pride (or Why Spiritual Pride Is Dangerous)

Pitfall #1 Spiritual Pride Is DECEPTIVE. (11:17-18)

- It deceives us into thinking we somehow DESERVE the spiritual blessings we have, while others are less deserving.

Pitfall #2 Spiritual Pride Is DESTRUCTIVE. (11:19-21)

- It causes us to make destructive COMPARISONS between ourselves and others that tears them down in order to build us up.

Pitfall #3 Spiritual Pride Is DEADLY / DAMNING. (11:22)

- It tempts us to TRADE in our trust in God for trust in our “good” works (*choices, character, or conduct*) and our own “goodness.”
- It leads us to UNBELIEF and the eternal judgment of God.

Pitfall #4 Spiritual Pride Is DISTORTING. (11:22-24)

- It causes us to distort God’s CHARITY/MERCY and SEVERITY/JUDGMENT.
 - 1) It distorts the **judgment** of God by forgetting **faith** in Christ—*salvation IS by faith apart from works.*
 - 2) It distorts the **mercy** of God by forgetting the **fear** of Christ—*salvation is NOT without any works (life change).*

Do Not Be Wise in Your Own Eyes...

- **FEAR** God’s severe judgment of anyone who trusts in their own goodness rather than His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Persevere in your **FAITH** in God’s kind mercy in saving undeserving sinners by His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **FORSAKE** the pitfalls of spiritual pride by accepting one another in Christ with a humble awareness of God’s grace.

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.” And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.” And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.” And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (15:8-13)