

THE MAN (BRAMBLE) WHO WOULD BE KING! JUDGES 9:1-21

Introductory thoughts:

Life is **not** st

Dreams are **not** w

Change **can** be g

Change is **always** a tr & **not** a s

Judges 9:7 And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

Judges 9:8 **The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them;** and they said **unto the olive tree**, Reign thou over us.

Judges 9:9 **But** the olive tree said **unto** them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, **and** go to be promoted over the trees?

Judges 9:10 And the trees said **to the fig tree**, Come thou, and reign over us.

Judges 9:11 **But** the fig tree said **unto** them, Should I forsake my sweetness, **and** my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

Judges 9:12 Then said the trees **unto the vine**, Come thou, and reign over us.

Judges 9:13 And the vine said **unto** them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, **and** go to be promoted over the trees?

Judges 9:14 Then said **all** the trees **unto the bramble**, Come thou, and reign over us. **Judges 9:15** And the bramble said **unto** the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

This is an **embedded fable** of a man (bramble = briar / thorn bush) who would be king over the trees:

- No matter what
- Regardless of who he must destroy
- Simply because he must
- Power, money, fame, honor, woman, position, & possessions... dominated him!
- But not for long

Not

For

Long

Judges 9:22 When Abimelech had reigned **three years** over Israel, **Judges 9:23** Then **God sent** an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem; and the men of Shechem dealt treacherously with Abimelech: **Judges 9:24** **That** the cruelty done to the threescore and ten sons of Jerubbaal might come, and their blood **be laid upon Abimelech their brother**, which slew them; **and upon the men of Shechem, which aided him in the killing of his brethren.**

Judges 9:56 **Thus God rendered** the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren: **Judges**

9:57 And all the evil of the men of Shechem **did God render** upon their heads: and upon them came the curse of Jotham the son of Jerubbaal.

In the fable of the olive tree, the fig tree, and the grape vines refused to be promoted / demoted:

(1). Embracing | accepting my place

Becoming the king is great **if** that's your place.

The olive tree, fig tree and grape vines **already** had a God-given pl

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(2). Fulfilling my purposes

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(3). Bringing God and man pleasure!

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