

Sermon Title: **“WHICH IS BETTER FOR YOU?”**

Judges 9:1-21

- Abimelech’s mother was a concubine of Gideon & she lived in Shechem
- Abimelech has a meeting with ALL of the leaders in his mother’s family & he makes a plea to wipe out ALL 70 of his half-brothers
  - “Abimelech” = my father a king
- The leaders at Shechem agree & took 70 pieces of silver from the temple of their idol for Abimelech to use to raise up an army
  - With these mercenaries alongside him, Abimelech goes to his father’s house at Ophrah
- Abimelech kills each brother on the same stone. That act is believed to NOT just be out of simplicity or order, but rather as a sacrifice to baal
  - One wrinkle in Abimelech’s plan – Gideon’s youngest son hides & ISN’T killed
- Jotham (Gideon’s youngest son) goes to the top of Mount Gerizim, where those in the valley below were sure to hear & he tells a story
  1. The Trees represent Israel in general, but more specifically Shechem
    - These trees make NO attempt to look to God, instead they decide to have this olive tree “Reign over them”
  2. The Olive Tree represents Gideon
  3. The word “Fatness” represents oil
    - Oil had a significant role in the worship process
    - Oil had a significant role in the lives of important people
  4. The Fig Tree represents another one of Gideon’s sons
    - It’s implied that AFTER the offer was made to Gideon the same offer was presented to one of Gideon’s sons
  5. It’s NOT entirely clear who the Vine represents in this passage
    - But what is clear is that this same offer is extended for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time
  6. The Bramble represents Abimelech
    - The Olive Tree, the Fig Tree, & the Vine were ALL useful & bear fruit
    - However, the Bramble was a very barren & fruitless tree
- Jotham pinpointed Shechem’s fruit & they had to acknowledge their sin
- Life Lesson = in order to repent & experience victory over sin, you have to 1<sup>st</sup> identify & acknowledge your sin