

67. Jotham's Parable, The Trees

Judges 9:7-15 NLT

When Jotham heard about this, he climbed to the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted, "Listen to me, citizens of Shechem! Listen to me if you want God to listen to you! Once upon a time the trees decided to elect a king.

First they said to the olive tree, 'Be our king!'

But the olive tree refused, saying,

'Should I quit producing the olive oil that blesses both God and people, just to wave back and forth over the trees?'

"Then they said to the fig tree, 'You be our king!'

But the fig tree also refused, saying,

'Should I quit producing my sweet fruit just to wave back and forth over the trees?'

"Then they said to the grapevine, 'You be our king!'

But the grapevine also refused, saying,

'Should I quit producing the wine that cheers both God and people, just to wave back and forth over the trees?'

"Then all the trees finally turned to the thornbush and said, 'Come, you be our king!'

And the thornbush replied to the trees,

'If you truly want to make me your king, come and take shelter in my shade.

If not, let fire come out from me and devour the cedars of Lebanon.'"

Jotham continued, "Now make sure you have acted honorably and in good faith by making Abimelech your king, and that you have done right by Gideon and all of his descendants. Have you treated him with the honor he deserves for all he accomplished? For he fought for you and risked his life when he rescued you from the Midianites. But today you have revolted against my father and his descendants, killing his seventy sons on one stone. And you have chosen his slave woman's son, Abimelech, to be your king just because he is your relative.



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| ABIMELECH | FOUGHT | REVOLTED |
| BLESSES | GIDEON | RISKED |
| CEDARS | GRAPEVINE | SHADE |
| CHEERS | LISTEN | SHECHEM |
| CLIMBED | MIDIANITES | SHELTER |
| DECIDED | MOUNT | SHOUTED |
| DESCENDANTS | OLIVE | THOMBUSH |
| DEVOUR | OUT | TREES |
| ELECT | QUIT | TRULY |
| FAITH | RELATIVE | WAVE |