



Parable of Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)

Luke 13:6-9

⁶ He also spoke this parable: “A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

⁷ Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’

⁸ But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize *it*.

⁹ And if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ ”

Contextual background

Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

² And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things?

³ I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**

⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

⁵ I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”**

Coming back to Parable....

- This parable illustrated the need for repentance
- Attention to God's grace in allowing time for repentance.
- This parable should not be confused - Jesus cursed a fig tree as He and His disciples walked into Jerusalem (Matt. 21:19; Mark 11:13-14)
- Parable that He told about a fig tree (Matt. 24:32)
- The fig tree was another popular symbol of Israel (Hos. 9:10; Jer. 8:13; 24:1-8; Mic. 7:1)
- Fig tree and a vineyard together to symbolizes Israel
- Some scholars believe that Jesus was speaking of individuals.

Coming back to Parable....

- A fig tree was often given some time to bear good fruit since its root structure was complex and took time to develop.
- Three years would have been enough for the tree to yield some fruit.
- God was gracious with Israel and gave it more time to bear fruit.
- During His ministry stirred up the nation and infused elements that should have resulted in fruit (repentance).
- Paul had this parable in mind when he compared Israel to an olive tree and revealed Israel's fate further (Rom. 11:17-24)
- All about Fruitfulness and Repentance

Unfruitfulness/Barrenness

- Mathew 13:22 - Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and **the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes unfruitful.
 - a. The cares of this world
 - Can cause us to be unprepared - Luke 21:34-36
 - The evil in cares and anxieties is that they can distract our minds from what is truly important - Luke 12:29-32
 - b. The deceitfulness of riches
 - The danger is described in 1 Timothy 6:9-10
 - Again, the evil in riches lay in diverting our attention away from God, and feeling self-sufficient - 1 Timothy 6:17

Unfruitfulness/Barrenness -II

- Mathew 3:8 - Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance (NASB)- **Lack of True Repentance**
- Results in Master's Disappointment and finally Rejection
 - And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire (Mat 3:10)

What is Repentance?

- Repentance – Greek – Metanoia
 - Meta – with/beside or After
 - Noia – Mind
- In Greek – Significant changing of One's mind – Cause/Effect – Heart related
- Old Testament (Parable of Prophet Nathan)
- New Testament (Parable of Lord Jesus – Prodigal Son)

What is Fruit?

- Metaphor of fruit to describe the produce of Christian lives.
- A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit(Mathew 7:18 & Luke 6:43). Fruit can be either good or bad
- Romans 7:5 says For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear **fruit for death**.
- The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life – Proverbs 11:30
- Fruit is the direct result of whatever controls our hearts.
 - Mathew 15:19 (For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander)
 - Galatians 5:22 the fruit of Spirit is “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”

Fruit - Christlikeness

- The goal of the Christian life is to make the individual believer Christ-like
- Romans 8:29 indicates that it has always been God's purpose to "conform us to the image of His Son," or to make us like Christ. But again, we have stopped far short of the Biblical mark in defining this term.
- We define it typically in terms of "the fruit of the Spirit" of Galatians 5:22-23.
- If a person bears the fruit of the Spirit, his inner character is like that of Christ.
- True fruitfulness begins in the heart with the fruit of the Spirit.
- Inner fruit affects outward actions

Various Types of Fruits

- Fruit of Holiness - But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life (Romans 6:22)
- Fruit of the Spirit(Galatians 5:22)- 9 Delicious Flavors – Inner Essence
- Souls we win(Mathew 13:23)- But he who received seed on the good ground is he **who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces**: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
- What we give also fruit(Romans 15:28)- ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. ²⁸ Therefore, when I have performed this and **have sealed to them this fruit**, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

5 Secrets to bear Fruit - I

- Contact with the Living Water(Psalm 1:3)- He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That **brings forth its fruit** in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither;And whatever he does shall prosper.
- Spiritual Receptivity(Mathew 13:23)- But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed **bears fruit** and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”
- Death of the Old Life(John 12:24- ESV) - Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, **it bears much fruit.**

5 Secrets to bear Fruit -II

- Chastening and Pruning(John 15:2- ESV) - Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does **bear fruit he prunes**, that it may bear more fruit.
- Abiding in Christ(John 15:5-ESV) - am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing.

CT Studd

- C. T. Studd - Talented British athlete (founded the Worldwide Evangelism Crusade)
- Cricket world call him Born Cricketer
- After committing his life to Jesus he received honors like no other cricketer before him. Realization
- **What good will it do anybody in the next world for me to have been the best cricket player that has ever been?**
- **winning souls is far more important than winning cricket matches**

Rise up. O men of God! Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and mind and soul and strength To serve the King
of kings.

Summary & Conclusion

- Master is seeking Figs from Tree
- God's long suffering/grace/Intercession
- Unfruitfulness(Reasons and Results)
- True Repentance
- Fruit and Fruit Types
- Christlikeness
- Fruitfulness and
- Secrets of Fruitfulness(Fruit bearing)

WE ARE CALLED
TO BE FRUITFUL

