

The Fig Tree Part 1

“1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:1-9 KJV)

People and you might be one of them as they hear from news about murders, road traffic accidents with serious casualties, natural calamities like earthquake, typhoon, Volcano, floods with many people died and homes damaged with towns and villages devastated, or news of wars, riots or explosions and many people died, they will get certain impression about what is going on. The first thing that will come in their minds that those people who are affected by all these calamities are evil doers and God allowing such things to happen to them as punishment due to their sins. That is could be the truth, but it is also possible that those who are affected are innocent.

The same had happened at the time of Jesus, and the people around the Lord were terrified with what Pilate did when he killed certain people and mix their blood with the blood of their sacrifices that they offered as their worship to God. **“1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.” (Luke 13:1)** People concluded that they faced such a situation because they have done bad things against the Lord. But Jesus corrected them when He told them the following: **“2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:2-3 KJV)** The Lord reinstates the people who brought to Him such news and made them to think in the right way. Jesus told them don't think that those Galileans are worse sinner and don't think about yourself as righteous; the Lord warned them that if they will not repent they too will perish.

Jesus also said to them the following incident of the same bottom line story: **“4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:4-5 KJV)** For the second time Jesus was saying to the people and to us the following: Don't think about yourself better than those people who are affected by calamities and don't be self-righteous. Don't boast about yourself because what bad had happened to them it might happen to you as well if you will not repent.

The bad news that we hear is an invitation for us to repent, turn from sin and come back to the Lord. When we hear bad news we should take things seriously; what had happened to the people it might happen to us as well. God is merciful to us; He forgives us our sins and He is also not punishing us as our sins deserve but we should not abuse the grace of God. If the Lord is not dealing with you according to your short coming that does not mean that God is happy with your life, but the Lord only showing you love in order for you to repent.

Some they boast with the material things that they have and they think that they have all these things because God is happy with them. This is the deception of Satan and things need to be clarified for you. The following are clear understanding from the Word of God to avoid falling down in the trap of the devil.

1. Material blessings are not sign of God's approval: Many they think that those who have much material things are blessed by the Lord. That might be true but that does not mean that God is happy with all who have much material things. Sometimes God even allow the wicked to have material blessings but that does not mean He is approving them. The Word of God teaches us that God give material things to the wicked, **“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45 KJV)** The Psalmist spoke about the prosperity of the wicked, **“For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” (Psalm 73:3 KJV)** Solomon also spoke about good men receive bad things and bad men receive good things, **“There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just men, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked men, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also is vanity.” (Ecclesiastes 8:14 KJV)** Here what Solomon was saying that righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. So what we can see here that wicked can still be prosperous and God allow it. Therefore we conclude that material blessings it will not be a sign for God's approval for that person who have much of it. And with such set up we can still conclude that poverty is not necessarily a sign of God disapproval.

2. Spiritual blessings are not sign of God's approval: God gives spiritual gifts and enable us to do His work and that for His glory. But that does not mean that we can do wrong and abuse the gifts that God would give in His service. Our sins and disobedience will not be covered up and atoned by our ministry and service unto God, as well as our prosperous ministry is not a sign of God's approval. Jesus even mentioned in Matthew that those who claim that they casted demons and did the wonderful work of God, might be He was not pleased with them: **“21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 7:21-23 KJV)** So we need to be careful how to behave in serving God and cannot take things for granted and we need to do His will..

3. God's wrath on the wicked is not the prove that we are righteous people: If God is not dealing with your sins that does not mean that He is happy with you. And if God is

disciplining or punishing someone for his sins that does not mean you are righteous. If you will not repent your turn will come soon and the Lord will deal with you. The Lord is merciful so He is delaying His judgment but at any time the Lord may deal with you if you will not repent.

Christian's life is not how many years you are Christian; many they boast that they are long years Christians but what is matter here is not that but how much you follow God and walk in His ways. Christianity is a life style and commitment to the Lord to the end as Jesus said, **"13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."** (Matthew 24:13 KJV)

The Lord wants to see and enjoy the fruit in your lives. In the parable that the Lord mentioned about the fig tree, the owner had planted the fig tree in his vineyard; it took effort and a space in the vineyard. He also put a man to take care of it and that another cost for the owner and in addition to that his continuous follow up and effort for three years but then there was no fruit. * You must now realize that God wants you to be transformed and changed from being care receiver to care giver and from being consumer to be a productive man, * The Lord had invested many resources in your life and He wants you to be productive and fruitful in your walk with Him. The time had come in your life that you need to be faithful to the Lord and express your good gratitude to Him by being obedient to perform the task and achieve the good work that He had prepared in advance for you to do.

The Lord wants to taste the fruit in your life and be satisfied with your good attitude and perfect character that expresses God's love and His will. Matthew spoke about a real fig tree that Jesus move toward it in order to eat and satisfy his hunger: **"18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. 19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away."** (Matthew 21:18-19 KJV) Jesus Christ cursed that fig tree because it lacked fruit. Many Christians are leaves only and no fruit. Jesus is hungry and wants to get satisfy of how you live your life to Him. The following are the scripture that can show us what Jesus is looking for and taste in our lives.

A. Jesus is looking for sheep and not goats: In The parable of the sheep and the goats the Lord commended the sheep for their true love and how they denied themselves for the sake of others, and condemn the goat for their selfishness and lack of concern, **"31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then**

shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25:31-46 KJV) The time that you will start to deny yourself and love your neighbor as yourself that will be the time that you will be able to share and give to others. The sheep of Jesus are those who feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, cloth the naked, and visit those in prison and the sick and care for them.

B. Jesus looking for true disciple: **"14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15 And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God."** (Luke 22:14-16 KJV) The Lord took the passover with His true followers. Jesus is eager to fellowship with us as long as we are in line with Him and with His Word and teaching. Jesus is not only hungry but looking to eat with laborers who are willing to suffer for His work. Therefore the Lord when He is looking to the fig tree or to his church He wants to see true disciples or laborers, and not a mere crowd who show no concern to the Lord or to His Word or to His work.

C. Jesus is and hungry and thirsty to see discipline who live to fulfill the scripture: Jesus when he came fulfilled the Scripture, even while He was on the cross He fulfilled the Scripture: **"28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth."** (John 19:28-29 KJV) To fulfill or accomplish the Scripture that is the task that Jesus is entrusted to you today as you hear or read the message. Don't be like others who disobey God and break Scripture. Be eager to obey God and walk in His ways. The Holy Spirit every now and then will challenge you to obey certain Scripture and put them into practice, and as you obey you are honoring God and you in that will quench the thirst of Jesus. In other word Jesus is thirsty and looking for disciples who do God's will as He said, **"35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."** (Mark 3:35 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved: The Word of God tells us the following: **"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."** (Psalm 103:10 KJV) God is calling you to return to Him, to humble down and to repent from your sins. His mercy had withheld His judgment from you. The Lord's coming is soon and we need to be ready for His coming. Today! Is the time for you to decide to return to the Lord.

The Word of God tells us the following: **"33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."** (Matthew 12:33 KJV) Therefore it is in your hand to be obedient child of God and to please Him. Jesus also said, **"7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye**

will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:7-8 KJV) Therefore it is your responsibility to abide with the Word of Jesus and bear much fruit in your life that Jesus’ name would be lifted up and glorified in your life as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching that I received today from your Word, and that made me aware of how you wants me to live my life for you.*

Repent and renounce your sins; self-righteousness, pride, lack of commitment, selfishness, no love to God and to His work and to the lost souls. Lord I repent from the following sins _____ . I renounce them all and commit myself to live my life for you. I dedicate myself to serve you wholeheartedly and to invest all what I have in your service.

Lord I commit myself to live my life according to your Word, denying myself, living as true disciple of yours, and bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit, being abound in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Help me Lord to do that and live my life in such a way.

Lord I pray for my brethren who committed their lives to you, Lord I pray that you will enable them to be the people that you wants them to be; a service provider, a care giver, who are willing to deny themselves and go on and serve you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us to do the very will of you, to go on and do the service that you wants us to do. Lord enable us to reach new people and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Fig Tree Part 1. Luke 13:1-9. Matthew 5:45. Psalm 73:3. Ecclesiastes 8:14. Matthew 7:21-23. Matthew 24:13. Matthew 21:18-19. Matthew 25:31-46. Luke 22:14-16. John 19:28-29. Mark 3:35. Psalm 103:10. Matthew 12:33. John 15:7-8.

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