

The Fig Tree Part 2

“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 13:6-9 KJV)

The message from the parable of the fig tree is a challenge for us, the Lord really wants us to bear the fruit that he desire to see in our lives. In Mark we can read a real story about the fig tree, **“12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: 13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 14 And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.” (Mark 11:12-14 KJV)** The Lord was not able to find fruit in the fig tree because it was not the season for that. But even though, he cursed it because He was expecting to find fruit on it. The same for us; we are to be fruitful, effective and productive in our lives at all times. The fig tree was not fruitful because that was not the season for it, but for us God wants us to be ready for Him and fruitful in all times as we read here, **“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2 KJV)** * You are called to be prepared in season and out of season and that require from you to be in line with the truth of God and His Word. If you are living your own life and doing your own plan and will. then you will never be ready for God and what God wants you to be and to do unless you repent. * To be ready for God, I pray that you will be able to overcome your own will, your own flesh and sinful desires and your own selfish ambition and plans. And for that you need to surrender your life fully to God and ask Him to be the Lord over all your life. If that is then the case then there are three types of fruit will start to appear in your life and that will please the Lord.

1. Fruit of repentance: “Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:” (Matthew 3:8 KJV) To turn away from sin and renounce all your shortcomings; this will open the way for you to reach God and meet Him face to face through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. Fruit of the Holy Spirit: “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23 KJV) The fruit of the Holy Spirit will build in you the Christian character who makes you love and care, to be always joyful and at peace, overcoming trials, trouble and persecution with more Christ’s characters of kindness, gentleness, patience, perseverance and self-control, focusing on God and the goals that the Lord had set before you to achieve in life.

3. Fruit of bringing new souls to God: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.” (John 15:16 KJV) Your life will be a testimony to others and as they will see your style of living they will come to know God and will praise the Father in Heaven as Jesus said, **“Let your light so**

shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16 KJV)

God should be and He is the Lord and the master of our lives and being. And He visits us and introduces Himself in our lives and interferes with us to teach us good things and to redirect us to do the things that he desire for us to do. Jesus interferes with our lives to make our lives easier, better and fruitful. Jesus observes our lives and so every now and then come and does some changes in our lives in order for us to be more effective and more fruitful. **“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?” (Luke 13:6-7 KJV)** Jesus in the parable of the fig tree His desire is to enjoy the fruit in our lives. Jesus desires to see us more fruitful. Effort and time and finances were spent to plant the fig tree. It takes a place and a dresser was assigned to care for it and follow up was done regularly on it. In the same way much effort, time and resources were spent on you to train you and to teach you but where you are now and what you are doing! That is why Jesus here is telling you the truth and confronts you with the reality, and as the following:

A. Lack of fruit: The man did not find fruit on the fig tree. **“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?” (Luke 13:7 KJV)** Jesus is upset when He is looking to you but He is not finding any fruit or a real progress in your life. This is the truth and you need to be faced with the truth and the reality.

B. Judgment announced: When the man said, **“cut it down”**. This is a hard warning message from the Lord to you. This language is needed in certain times to bring awakening, repentance, and will give you the initiative to take certain decisions and suitable actions in order for you to repent, and come back to the Lord and start once again to be fruitful and effective.

C. The reason for judgment given: When the man said, **“why cumbereth it the ground”**. The fig tree that is without fruit is taking place in the garden, as well as it takes food and waters from other fruitful trees, and attention and care from the person who care for the garden. Jesus explaining to you why He is speaking hard to you, because much was spent on you and it suppose that you should show faithfulness and diligence but you are careless, selfish and has no love to others but you love yourself only. Jesus is rebuking you for your own benefit so that you may repent.

“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 13:8-9 KJV) As long as the message is bringing warning from God to your life to avoid God’s wrath and judgment, then there is still a hope for you. There is someone is praying and interceding for you, **“Lord, let it alone this year also”**, Jesus at the right hand of God the Father is interceding for you and the church of God is praying for your behalf to be forgiven by the Lord and to be given another chance to repent and to correct yourself before God’s judgment. The following points we as church want to emphases and we can

help you with; we need to do, so the brethren would be fruitful.

1. Praying for you: We are really praying for you and for everyone who is unfruitful and not willing to obey God and live the kind of life that wants him to live.

2. Warning you: *“13 I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.” (Jeremiah 8:13 KJV)* ** Don't be deceived with those who keep telling you peace and peace while still you are sinning against the Lord. There will be no peace and no salvation for you unless you repent and forsake sins. * Do not also be deceived when you think that if you listen to the Word of God that will cover up your sins. Many they go to churches and listen to the Word but are unwilling to repent. They are thinking as long as they hear the message the blessings of God will flow in their lives. But the blessing of the Lord will flow only if there is repentance.* This is what the Word of God tells us, *“19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:” (Deuteronomy 29:19-21 KJV)* You need to repent and renounce all your sins, then after, God's blessing will flow in your life.

3. Digging around you: To dig about the tree that is non fruitful was to expose the roots, examine and find out what are the things that blocking the nutrient to be absorbed; if there are stones or rocks, less soil, and if there is no rich soil. *You might not be happy if we will be checking you and try to touch the sensitive and personal areas of your life. That is mandatory for your healing and wellbeing because we need to find the root cause of the problem that you are passing through; we need to diagnose so we can give the right treatment.* Sick people they go to doctors who examine them carefully and closely, investigate them, reaching the diagnosis and prescribe to them the require medicine or the surgical procedure that is needed for their healing.

4. Putting fertilizer: The dresser said that he will dung it; to put fertilizer as he dug around it: *“8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:” (Luke 13:8 KJV)* *Exhortation, correction, rebuke and discipline are the healing instruments that the Lord put in the church's hand to help you with. Don't be ashamed to open up your life to us; we are here to help you and be delivered from sins and bondages. “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13 KJV)* As you are willing to open up and willing to confess your sins then we will be able to give you the right advice and the way you live and we can pray for your full recovery and the Lord will answer: *“16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16 KJV)*

His Word to you is Word of instruction, rebuke, teaching and correction. You may not like it, but that is for your own benefit. Jesus in the parable of the fig tree is speaking to you, to His church and to everyone and He wants a response and actions to be taken in according to His Word. *“20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.” (Proverbs 19:20 KJV)* *“19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” (Deuteronomy 30:19-20 KJV).*

The Lord today is speaking to you and warning you for your own benefit. There are things you are fully occupied with and taking from your time, effort, money, your emotions and your thinking. They are taking spaces from your memory and your daily time and activities but they are unfruitful. So the Lord is speaking today for your own benefit and good. God wants to help you by removing from you things that are unbeneficial to you and are taking a good space in your life. Non beneficial things that occupy a good space in your life they are turning you into ineffective and non fruitful person. So they are harmful things, and as God directing you to take certain and suitable action to prone or cut such activities from your life like spending time, efforts and money on friends and worldly things, and getting busy watching the Media, wrong thinking, anger, jealousy, coveting others, laziness, etc.

As we live our lives for God we live according to His plan and doing His will. So the message from the fig tree is another example for us to see the Word of God and learn more about serving the Lord and about our life of prayer. The man who took care of the fig tree spoke to the man the following: *“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 13:8-9 KJV)* As we ponder on the situation of the ministry and what is going on, and how the Lord is seeing the situation, then we communicate our decision and we commit ourselves to do the following to the Lord:

A. Pray to the Lord, “let it alone this year also,” Ask the Lord to give you a last chance to see if there is any benefit from what God is pointing to you as non fruitful thing in your life whether project, business, or ministry; if it reach the situation that there is no fruit, then it should not be let it go without an action or decision to improve the outcome. We apply this principle also in the ministry, we reach people with evangelism, we spend time, effort and money in discipling them, and we keep things going on for three years then we need to evaluate the situation and be willing to take an action that would glorify God to make us good steward to what He entrusted to us.

B. Commit yourself to dig around it “till I shall dig about it”: Commit yourself to the Lord to study the situation and see how you can bring fruit. Try your best to find out what is the reason of non bearing fruit. Pray and ask God to clarify things to you. Study the Word of God. Ask advice and counsel from experienced Godly people, from us, the church leaders. Check also yourself and dig inside to see what is wrong in you that causes non fruitfulness.

C. Commit yourself that you do what is helpful, “and dung it”: When you find the real reason, then commit yourself and be sure to do certain things about it. Act and spend and put effort in a time table for one more year. Be honest and act within that time table that is within the limit of God’s Word. Understand the time limit is not to squeeze you but to protect you from unnecessary and further losses.

D. Be bold to take your final decision, “And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down”: To cut down, get rid, or send away if no fruit reproduced.

E. Be ready to go along with God, and to implement what you said, “If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”: God is preparing you for another thing to handle instead of your current non fruitful fig tree.

My Dear and Beloved: We need to comply with God’s Word and what it dictates to us. Every one of us the Lord had given him certain resources of money, time and effort, then if you spend that unwisely and more on things does not deserve, then you are short when it come to spend on things that you need to spend. Set your mind and thoughts with God and program your life and action in accordance to God’s will and Word.

My Prayer: *Father God in Heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word to me and the teaching that I received today from the message.*

Renounce all your sins, and your wrong ways in life and ministry. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins _____. I renounce them all and commit myself to live my life for you.

Lord I understand that you are speaking to me in regard to the following subject and ministry _____. Lord, I pray, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down, in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Lord bless my brethren who committed their lives to you. Lord help them to be fruitful to you, and to accomplish what they had committed to you. Lord give them discernment and help them to see the things that you wants them to see and observe.

Lord bless us as a church and, refill us with the Holy Spirit, and 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 2. Luke 13:6-9. Mark 11:12-14. 2 Timothy 4:2. Matthew 3:8. Galatians 5:22-23. John 15:16. Matthew 5:16. Jeremiah 8:13. Deuteronomy 29:19-21. Proverbs 28:13. James 5:16. Proverbs 19:20. Deuteronomy 30:19-20.

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