

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS

A SYSTEMATIC SERIES

UNVEILING GODS ETERNAL TRUTH IN THE PARABOLIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN TREE"

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS UNVEILED

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Fruitfulness, Barrenness, Growth, Development

Luke 13:6-9

Luke 13:6-9

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.**"

The nature of this Parable: *Christian or "Christ-Like" growth.*

THE PARABLE OF **THE BARREN TREE**

I've asked the Lord that - in the millennium, If I could live on any one of the Hawaiian islands and be a gardener.
(that to me would be the perfect life) **Everything, Anything Grows There**

Growth is a very serious thing to God and so to us.

THE PARABLE OF **THE BARREN TREE**

1.) God's purpose for life

v.6

Col. 1:10

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful** in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR LIFE

1a.) Life and His expectation

v.6

Luke 13:6

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.

What does fruitfulness look like?

Eph. 5:1

Therefore **be imitators** of God as dear children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR LIFE

1b.) Life and His **provision**

v.6

Luke 13:6

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.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR LIFE

1c.) Life and His **return**

v.6

Luke 13:6

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.**

THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN TREE

2.) God's **investment in life**

v.7

GOD'S INVESTMENT IN LIFE

2a.) He has **invested grace**

v.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?"

Psa. 1:1-3

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 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.

The Fig Tree Cursed

Mark 11:12-14

Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And **seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves**, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing **but leaves, for it was not the season for figs**. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

Figs appear on a fig tree before the leaves appear.

If you see a fig tree with leaves, you can pretty much count on fruit being there unless it's already been picked or the tree is goofy. Also, Fig trees can produce 2 to 4 crops of figs per year and so you can often gather figs "in between seasons". There are locations in Israel where fig trees have been known to have fruit on them up to 10 months out of the year.

2 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word! Be ready **in season** and **out of season**. (*being fruitful at all times*)

Note – the tree had leaves meaning that even though it wasn't the normal season – this tree would have had figs. The tree; disappointing, misleading, and false to its nature.

GOD'S INVESTMENT IN LIFE

2b.) He has **patiently waited**

v.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?"

Is. 5:1-4

Now let me sing to my Well-beloved: A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. 3 "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. 4 **What more could have been done** to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?

What are the hindrances to fruitfulness?

Natural, Human Stuff Like Carnality

2 Tim. 3:1-7

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 John 3:7-9

Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Gal. 5:19-21

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Jude 1:8-12

Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" 10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain, have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots;

GOD'S INVESTMENT IN LIFE

2c.) He has determined a season v.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?"

**stop and ask yourself –
what kind of fruit does He see on me?**

Gal. 5:22

But the fruit (singular) of the Spirit (the Holy Spirit produces) is **LOVE**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

1 Cor. 13:4-13

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN TREE

3.) God's warning for life v.8-9

But he (*the keeper of the vineyard*) 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.’ ”

The intercession of the keeper

GOD’S WARNING FOR LIFE

3a.) He extends mercy

v.8

But he (*the keeper of the vineyard*) answered and said to him, Sir, let it alone this year also,

the act of repentance is implied here

we need help – daily !!!

GOD’S WARNING FOR LIFE

3b.) He adds opportunities

v.8-9a

until I dig around it and fertilize it. **9** And if it bears fruit, well.

What does it mean to be “fruitful” or to be a “fruit bearing” Christian? **how does this fruitfulness happen?**

2 Pet. 1:5-8

But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 15:1-6,16

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** **Abide** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **:5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **:16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,

Abide μένω **meno**, *men'-o*; to stay. to continue, to dwell, endure, to remain in the same place.

GOD’S WARNING FOR LIFE

3c.) He gives chances

v.9b

But if not, **after that** you can cut it down.’ ”

**“Cut it down!
why does it use up the ground?”**

Do yourself a great eternal favor - Don't die in an unrepentant state.

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

He saves those who come to Him from the penalty of sin and the power of sin. As a result, they are freed to no longer sin.

Can a Christian be fruitless?

This is hard to answer. Is it possible? I am not sure. Because even the thief on the cross, upon his conversion, brought forth fruit that remains to this day.

Gal. 6:7-8

Do not be **deceived**, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

deceived πλανᾶω *planao*, *plan-ah'-o*; to go astray, to drift off. to allow seduction, to wander out of the way.

*This parable demands that, everyone who **is** planted in the vineyard or **believes they are** planted in the vineyard – stop and examine themselves to see if their lives are producing life-giving-fruit.*

The Lord doesn't care about your reputation. He cares about your character. He doesn't care about opinions. He cares about truth. He is not interested in who you say you are, He is interested in what you are.

1 John 2:9-11

He who says he is in the light, and hates his brother, is in darkness until now. 10 He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

>>>> **The Cross, The Christ,**
The Call <<<<

————— *End of Study* —————

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