

Am I Fruitful? Luke 13:6-9

A Barren Tree

In this parable of the barren fig tree the primary application has to do with the Jewish nation and Christ's efforts to lead them to repentance

However, the basic principles of the story did not pass away with the Jewish nation but would apply to all members of the body of Christ today.

We want to consider the parable in this light as it applies to Christians today.

Remember this Was a "planted" tree in the man's vineyard it didn't just happen to be there, it wasn't a wild tree

No Fruit Found Luke 13:6

Because it had no fruit it was absolutely worthless to the owner

This is an apt description of many of today's church members - **Matthew 5:13; 25:41-46**

Church members are all expected to bear fruit - **John 15:8; Colossians 1:10; 2Peter 1:5-9**

Most church members are not wicked, not lawbreakers, not violent, revengeful nor hateful, they simply are of no use to the Lord

Christ does not expect the impossible, but he does expect some fruit from every "tree"

Cut It Down Luke 13:7

In the way - not only doing no good, was hindering good from being done

Many church members are hindrances - **1Corinthians 5:6; Matthew 18:6**

Not Only do they fail to do good themselves, but they keep others from serving the Lord Faithfully

They often discourage some who are trying to bear fruit and cause them to be unfruitful.

Often hinder others from obeying gospel because of evil influence which they have on them.

One More Year Luke 13:8

Had been unfruitful for three years yet the dresser ask for more time so he could give it special attention, give it every chance - **2Peter 3:9**

Many in the church today are in need of repentance

They need special attention and care to possibly affect a change in their lives - **Psalms 1:1-3**

Fruitless Is Worthless Luke 13:9

It was useless, in the way and had to be destroyed

It is the law of nature that whatever does not reproduce itself must die. This is a universal law whether applied to the vegetable, animal or human kingdom,

God warns that unfruitful church members will be eternally punished - **John 15:5-6; Matthew 7:19**

Lord expects us to be fruitful. There is no place in kingdom of Christ for non-producers - **John 15:16**

Lazy, indolent, indifferent need not entertain hope of reward in this life or that which is to come.

Am I Bearing Fruit?

John 15:4

If not, then you are useless and a hindrance to the cause of Christ

God is longsuffering - giving you a chance to live for Him and to bear fruit.

Even though we live in homes where there is a Bible in almost every room, many of those who claim to be Christians bear no real fruit in the Lord's service.

It is not an angry Lord that condemns us to eternal punishment - we condemn ourselves.

Destruction is the fault of the tree itself

Fruitlessness invites disaster now and in the judgment to come.

JLH?