

# Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

**Luke 13:6-9**





THANK YOU



For  
PRAYING





# Plant Symbols of Israel

- **THE OLIVE TREE** is a symbol of Israel's Religious privileges.
- **THE VINE** is a symbol of Israel's Spiritual privileges.
- **THE FIG-TREE** is a symbol of Israel's National privileges.



# **Luke 13:6-9**

- 6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.**
- 7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'**
- 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.**
- 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine!  
If not, then cut it down.'"**



# **Special Characteristics of Fig Trees.**

- **Take about 3 years to reach maturity and bear fruits.**
- **Generally a very hardy tree that grows well & fruits easily...**
- **Two main fruiting season every year**
- **The fruit of the fig tree normally appears even before the leaves...**

**6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.**

**7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, *'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'***



# Question:

- ? Where was the fig tree planted ?
- ? Roughly how “old” was this fig tree ?
- ? How many times at least did the owner come looking for fruit ?
- ? Why was the fig tree planted ?
- ? Why was the owner angry ?
- ? What was his solution to this problem ?



**8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.**

**9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"**



# Question:

- ? What was the response from the gardener ?
- ? What did the gardener promise to do ?
- ? What time period did he propose ?
- ? If still no fruit, what happens ?



# Lessons from this Parable :

To the listeners at that time, what was their understanding of ...

- ↪ the “owner” ?
- ↪ the “fig tree”?
- ↪ the 3 years ?
- ↪ the “gardener” ?
- ↪ the “fruit” ?



**6** Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.

**7** So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

**8** "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.

**9** If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"



**Luke 13:6-9**

# Luke 13:1-5

1. Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.
2. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?"
3. **I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.**



# Luke 13:1-5

4. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them — do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?

5. I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

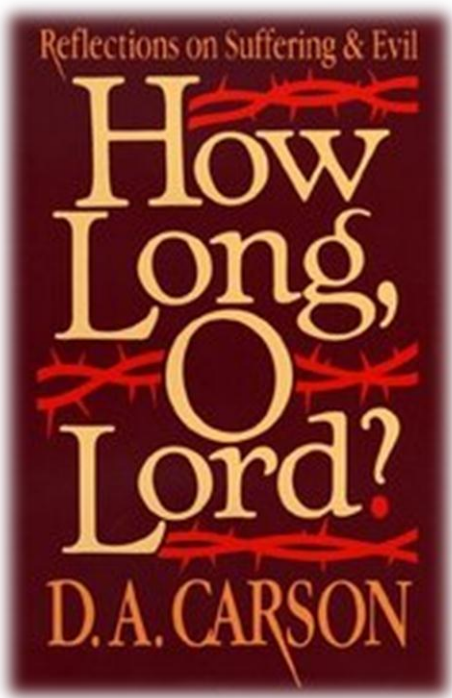


# Lessons :

- **Suffering  $\neq$  Sin**
- **All of us are sinners deserving death – Rom 3:23**
- **The very fact that we are NOT dead is due to God's mercy & grace**
- **All of us Need To REPENT**







**D A Carson :**

***First,*** Jesus takes it for granted that the wages of sin is death

***Second,*** because death is what we *all* deserve,

***it is only God's mercy that keeps us alive***

***Third,*** wars and natural disasters are always calls to repentance, ...

# Conclusion from Luke 13:1-5

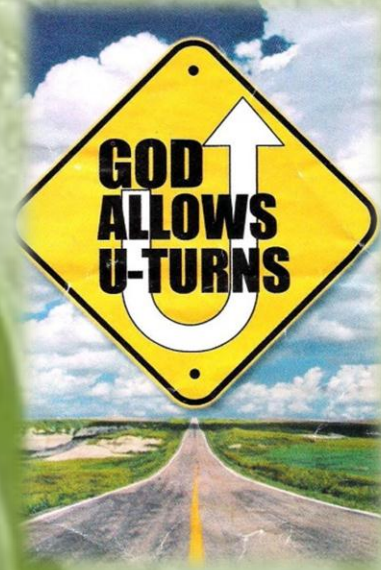
Jesus said : “ I tell you, no! But unless **YOU REPENT**, you too will all perish.”

➤ **TWO** times – v 3 & 5

➤ So **REPENTANCE** is important to Jesus  
**THEN** Jesus went on to tell the Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

➤ But the lesson there is about :

- Barren-ness ?? or
- Unfruitfulness ??



# REPENTANCE & BARREN-NESS

*Jesus is teaching about the need to*

➤ *Repent of our Barren-ness*

*But what exactly does that mean ?*

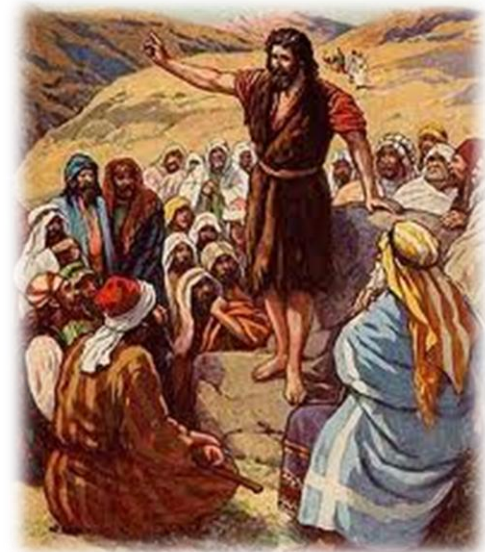
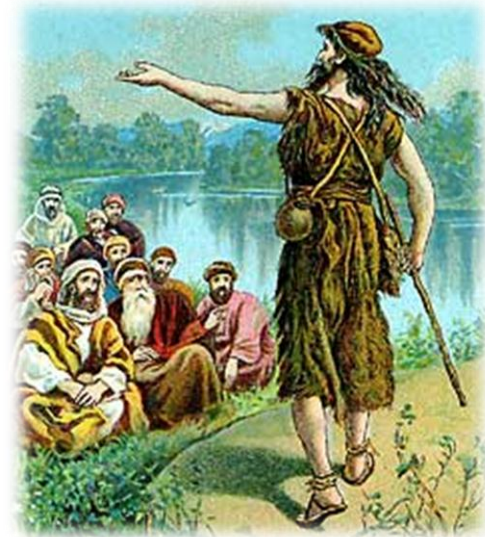


7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

8 PRODUCE FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce GOOD FRUIT will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

**Luke 3:7-9**





- **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance**
- **Produce good fruit**

# John 15:1-8

- 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.
- 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.
- 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.
- 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

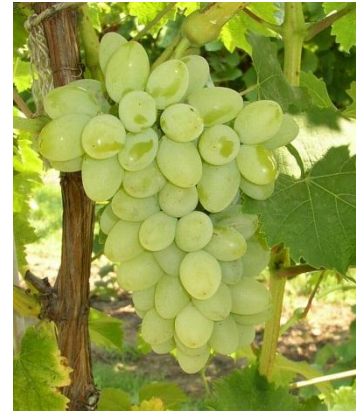


**5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**

**6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.**

**7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.**

**8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**



# John 15:16-17

**16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.**

**17 This is my command: Love each other.**





- **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance**
- **Produce good fruit**
- **Produce much fruit**
- **Produce lasting fruit**



# But What is “Bearing Fruit” ?

Okay Peter, I give up ... what are you doing now?



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# BEARING FRUIT:

## 1. CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

eg Gal 5:22-23 Fruit of the Spirit

But the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Q: How is your character ?

Q: Are you being “fruitful” ?



## 2. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

eg Col 1:10

And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:

**BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK,**

growing in the knowledge of God,

- Character is who we are within
- Conduct is our behavior visible to the world ...



**BEARING FRUIT:**

# 3. CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Rom 1:13 (NKJV)

“... I often planned to come to you, that I might have some FRUIT among you also...”

Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Q: How is your witness ?

**BEARING FRUIT:**



# A story ...



- 1. Christian Character eg Fruit of the Spirit**
- 2. Christian Conduct eg Col 1:10**
- 3. Christian Witness eg Rom 1:13; Matt 5:16**

**QUESTION :**

**HAVE YOU BEEN BEARING FRUIT  
FOR THE LORD ?**

**Or are you 'barren' ?**

**"Bearing Fruit"**







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# **BUT : God of the Second Chance ...**

**Ps 103:8-10**

**The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.**

**He will not always accuse, nor will he  
harbor his anger forever;**

**he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.**





8 "'Sir,' the man replied,  
'leave it alone for one  
more year, and I'll dig  
around it and fertilize it.  
9 If it bears fruit next year,  
fine! ...  
If not, then cut it down.'"







# What about you – TODAY ?

➤ **“I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish”**

**Q. Have you ever repented of your sins and invited Jesus into your life ?**

➤ **If not now – When ?**

➤ **If not here – Where ?**



**For those who have repented of your sins  
& have invited Jesus into your life as  
Savior & Lord ...**

- Are you bearing fruit in keeping with  
your repentance ?**
- Are you bearing good fruit ....**
- Are you bearing much fruit ....**
- What is your story ....**
- Do you have a story ?**





**1. We've a story to tell to the nations,  
That shall turn their hearts to the right,  
A story of truth and mercy,  
A story of peace and light,  
A story of peace and light.**

***Chorus :***

***For the darkness shall turn to dawning,  
And the dawning to noonday bright;  
And Christ's great kingdom shall come  
on earth,  
The kingdom of love and light.***



**2. We've a song to be sung to the nations,  
That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,  
A song that shall conquer evil  
And shatter the spear and sword,  
And shatter the spear and sword.**

**3. We've a message to give to the nations,  
That the Lord who reigns up above  
Has sent us His Son to save us,  
And show us that God is love,  
And show us that God is love.**



**4. We've a Savior to show to the nations,  
Who the path of sorrow has trod,  
That all of the world's great peoples  
Might come to the truth of God,  
Might come to the truth of God.**







# 4. CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

Eg Heb 13:15

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise ...

— the FRUIT OF LIPS THAT CONFESS HIS NAME.

**BEARING FRUIT:**

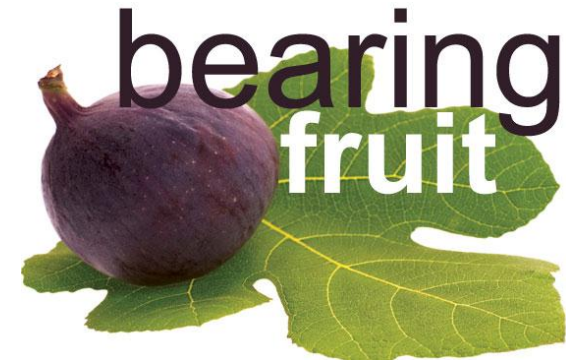


# 5. CHRISTIAN GIVING

eg Rom 15:28

So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this FRUIT, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.

**BEARING FRUIT:**



# Micah 4:1-5

**1 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.**

**2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. "The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

**3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.**

**4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.**

**5 All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.**



# Psalms 139

- God has a Plan for each of us even before we were born



- *Luke 3:3. John the Baptist was “preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.”*
- *and he warned the crowds, “Bear the fruits that befit repentance and do not say that we have Abraham as our father.”*

- A young fig tree grows rapidly and may start to bear fruit when seven years old and continue for several decades, but fig trees usually become unprofitable after some fifty years.





LUC. XIII.

Spes bona servat adhuc, praemisq; cura coloni,  
 Quom Dominus firmo tollere iussit humo.  
 Haecenus haud frangi fueras 'versare securim;  
 Ultimus hic fors, Te qui probat, annus adest.

*Der Feigenbaum steht noch der guten Hoffnung wegen:  
 Zumahl die frische Jung vermehrt der Blätter Schein:  
 Du Mensch warrt eben so: Doch fürchte Bed' und Dagen:  
 Er dürfte jetzt vielleicht dein letzter Prob-Bahr seyn.*



# John 6:27-29

27 ... Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?"

29 Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."



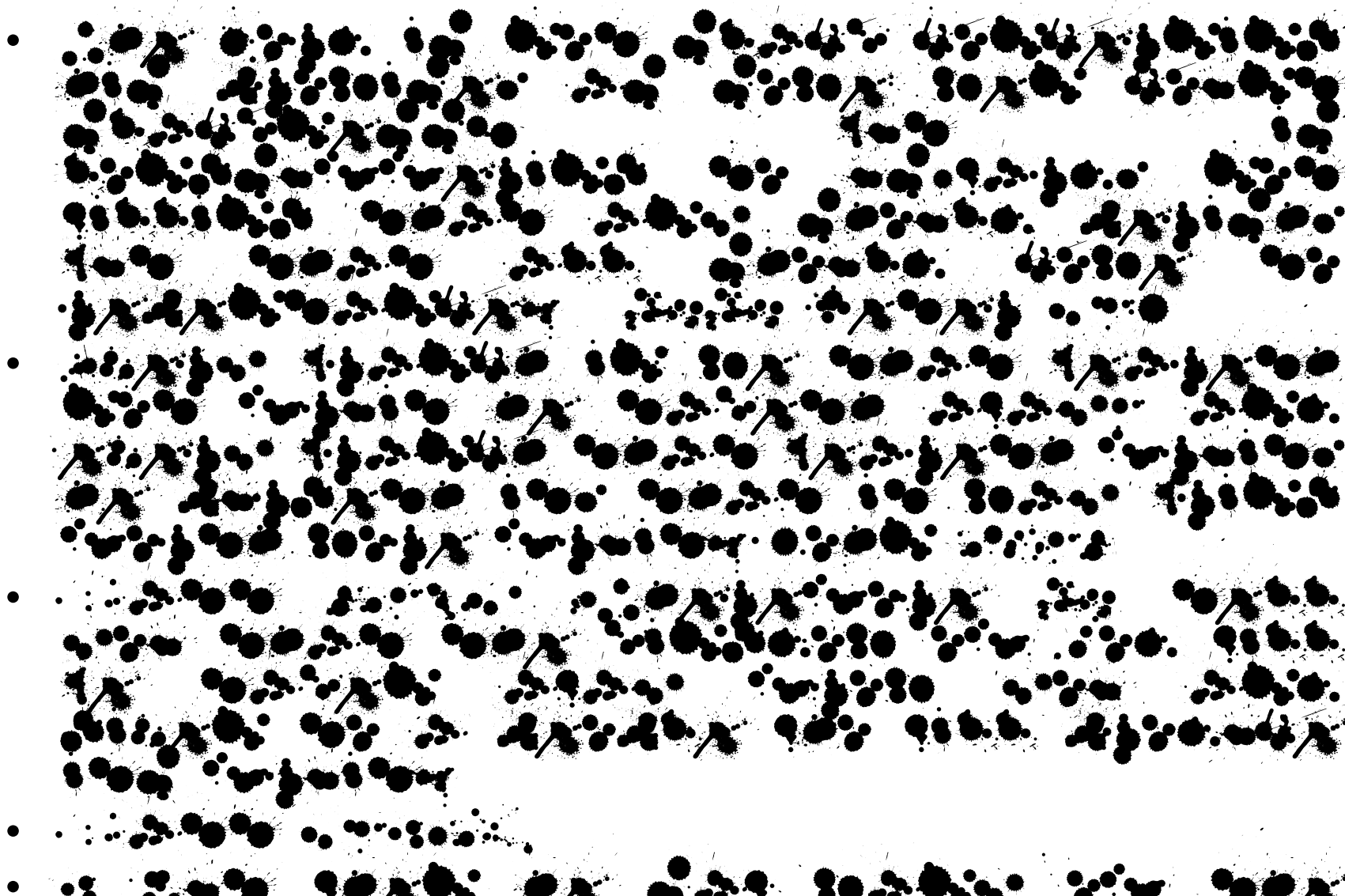
# Mel Gibson

- I happened to see an interview with Mel Gibson about his movie in the weeks after it was released. In it, the interviewer asked him, “Who killed Jesus?” I think she wanted to hear him answer, “The Jews did!” thereby stirring the pot of blame and controversy even more. Instead, Gibson’s answer was... are you ready?
- “We all did.”
- That’s right. We all killed Jesus.
- I think the reason that his answer is so memorable is that it steps outside the question of blame, and instead focuses on the sinfulness that each and every one of us owns in the eyes of God. “We all did...” No one is blameless.





- Some years ago, William Sloan Coffin preached a sermon about our temptation to speak God's mind. During the years when Rev. Coffin was senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City, his son Alex was killed in a tragic car accident. Alex was driving in a terrible storm; he lost control of his car and careened into the waters of Boston Harbor. The following Sunday, Dr. Coffin preached about his son's death. He thanked all the people for their messages of condolence, for food brought to their home, for an arm around his shoulder when no words would do. But he also raged; he raged about well-meaning folks who had hinted that Alex's death was God's will. "I knew the anger would do me good," he said.
- Then he went on:
- "Do you think it was God's will that Alex never fixed that lousy windshield wiper...that he was probably driving too fast in such a storm, that he probably had a couple of 'frosties' too many? Do you think it was God's will that there are no street lights along that stretch of the road and no guard rail separating the road and Boston Harbor? The one thing that should never be said when someone dies is, 'It is the will of God.' Never do we know enough to say that. My own consolation lies in knowing that when the waves closed over the sinking car, God's heart was the first of all our hearts to break."





- My brother served his first parish in Massillon, Ohio, as an associate pastor, with the late Pastor Mourice "Mo" White. Pastor White was a very large, strong and vibrant man.

During one Lenten season, one of the older, but faithful members of the church came with her husband to an evening Lenten service. As they were leaving the service, the woman somehow fell down the outside flight of steps and broke her hip. For some unknown cause, she did not recover from the hip surgery and died in a few short days. Pastor White stood with the bereaved husband by the casket the night before the funeral.

Many people came to offer their sympathies. Some were saying to the sorrowing husband, "God must of had a plan for this, so accept it." Another said, "It was God's will and we must live by it." Still another said, "Somehow God planned this to test your faith!!" And still another said, "There is a sliver lining in every cloud, you will find God's reason behind this eventually."

Pastor White left that funeral home filled with a very strong emotion of anger at the "babbling", as he put it, he heard that evening. He went to the study and rewrote the beginning of his funeral sermon.

Pastor White began his funeral sermon with this phrase: "My God does not push old ladies down church steps!!!"

Then he proceeded to explain that God cannot be blamed or accused for all the brokenness of this world

- the Garden of God. The reason I say that is that each of us are planted in this place this morning by God to bring forth fruit in season. We are planted by the Blood of the Lamb, cultivated by the Holy Spirit, and fertilized by the Word of God. Each of us is represented in the parable above in one way or another.
- A fig tree in God's garden that isn't thirsty for the Word of God or hungry for the fertilizing power of the Holy Spirit won't benefit at all from their provision.

Time after time, service after service, continually, Jesus is passing by to inspect the fig trees in His garden, looking for that ripened fruit of the Spirit. He searches for the fruits of righteousness including souls we may have won to the Lord, good works that we have done or a change in our nature and character for the better.

I wonder how many times He has passed by my fig tree and saw no fruit? I wonder how many times He has passed by each of us and was grieved because there was no fruit and we were still dead in our sin?

# **Matt 7:15-23**

**15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.**

**16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?**

**17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.**

**18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.**

**19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**

**20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**



# **Matt 7:15-23**

**20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.**

**21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

**22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'**

**23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'**





Matt 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before men,  
that they may see your good deeds and praise your  
Father in heaven.



Matt 10:28

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

