

A close-up photograph of a field of golden wheat. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with some blurred in the background. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

# PARABLES

SMALL STORIES, BIG IDEAS

# Parable of the **Barren Fig Tree**

## **Luke 13:6-9**







bearing  
fruit





**God takes what we do know to  
teaches what we don't know!**

par • a • ble(s)  
an earthly story  
with a spiritual truth



# I. A Reasonable Request!

- There is indeed a great deal we can learn from verse 6!
  - ▶ Lk. 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."
- When you read this verse, what do you see? What jumps out at you?
  - ▶ What is a vineyard? What is its purpose?
- The land owner "had a fig tree planted!"
  - ▶ Did he do this for a reason?

# Where is the fruit?

- Is this an unreasonable request? Should there be an expectation for the tree to produce? Is it of any use if it doesn't?
- Now we need to keep in mind that Jesus maybe talking about trees, but He is teaching people! The message is for us!
- Eph 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
  - ▶ See Tit. 1:16; 2:7 & 14; 3:1, 8 & 14

# II. A Redundant Report!

- A fruit tree without fruit is futile!
- He has been coming now for three years and still “no fruit!”
- What is striking is the tree had advantages!
  - ▶ Right location! In a vineyard, protected from the outside world! We that are Christians enjoy the protection of God!
  - ▶ Right plantation! The tree was hand picked and hand planted! We have been chosen by God and He has His hands on us!



# Not a product of chance!

- The planter has a purpose in mind for the plant! I have work for you to do, product fruit! This is the whole purpose of everything involved!
- This fruitlessness had been going on for 3 years now, and he has had enough!
- If we will not do the work that God has placed before us, then God will be forced to find someone else to take our place and we will miss out on the joy of service!
  - ▶ Cf. Act. 20:35

# III. A Regretful Recommendation!

“Cut it down!”

- I planted it, protected it after three years still “no fruit!”
- Now we maybe think, “it has only been 3 years!” but let’s think this through!
  - ▶ Your company hires someone to fill a need, for three years they give them absolutely everything they need, and yet still the need is not begin met, what do you do?
  - ▶ You replace them!

# Cutting down demands effort!

- Now, I know that for me, I want the ones I have invested in to succeed!
- This is indeed the case with God, He has done everything heavenly possible to provide a way for us, but we must be willing to take it!
- God has done His part it is now up to us to do our part!



# IV. A Responsible Response!

- My favorite verses in this are 8-9 for good reason! I need God to be patience with me and longsuffering!
  - ▶ Lk 13:8-9 "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"
- Now when I read this I see the Father & the Son and I see me!
  - ▶ The Father is the owner, Christ the vinedresser and I am the tree!

# “But if not you can cut it down!”

- You do what you must do, but please don't make me kill the tree!
- These 4 verses seem so small, but the message of them is huge!
- Lord plant me, Lord protect me and help me to produce!
  - ▶ I believe this is the message Jesus wants us to receive from this wonderful story!

# Conclusion:

- There is so much we can learn from this parable spoken by Jesus, we need to keep in mind that God believed it was important enough to be included in the pages of the Bible and it is written for you and for me!
- How have we been doing with our usefulness in the Kingdom? Are we producing the right kind of fruit?
- Have you been uprooted from sin and planted in the Savior?



if you don't have time to  
pray & read  
scriptures,  
you are busier than  
God  
ever intended you to be.