

PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9; Isaiah 5:1-7

Introduction: The Isaiah passage describing the vineyard was revealing the condition of God's people, Israel. In the Luke passage about the fig tree, Jesus is revealing that nations and individuals are like the fig tree and that God was giving ONE last chance.

We can apply that same truth to our own time, to our own selves.

I. GOD IS ABSOLUTE OWNER

1. People tend to forget or have never realized that **ONLY** God really owns things.
2. What government acknowledges that God is sole owner? It is a fact that governments throughout history have ignored the fact that it is God who is really sole owner.

II. GOD HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT "FRUIT"

1. Sufficient time had elapsed for the tree to have borne fruit, yet there was nothing.
2. By all standards, the tree should have produced figs. (*John 15:5, 8, 16*)

III. GOD IS PATIENT

1. For three years the owner waited for fruit to be produced but no fruit.
 - The tree was of no use, therefore it was to be removed.
2. The vineyard keeper suggested to wait one more year and give extra special attention, trying to get the tree to finally produce as it should.
3. Jesus was explaining that God is patient and does give second chances.

IV. GOD IS FIRM

1. A tree without bearing fruit is the same as a parasite, it only draws resources but produces nothing.
2. No fruit from a tree demands removal. That is the fair judgment and decision.

CONCLUSION:

1. People who are unsaved can bear no fruit for the Lord.
2. Christians often also fail to bear fruit for the Lord as well.
3. The unsaved need to be saved and the Christian needs to get right with his/her Lord Jesus.