

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 11

The Parable Of The Barren Fig Tree (Lk. 13:6-9)

Where & When:

- Toward the close of *The Judean Ministry*...it is still approx. 6 months to Jesus' crucifixion
 - Jesus' final words in this portion of His earthly ministry were ones of great lament over Jerusalem's fateful doom (Lk. 13:34-35)
 - They had already been warned (Mt. 3:10)

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Jesus addresses the multitudes re: being ready for His coming (12:35-40)
- Peter inquires if this warning was also for the disciples (12:41)
- Jesus continues His exhortation re: preparedness (12:42-48)
- Jesus warns that such readiness might even estrange one from his family (12:49-53)
- Jesus rebukes the crowd for their hypocrisy (12:54-59)
 - They could correctly read the weather signs
 - They were failing to read the "signs of the present time"
- Jesus corrects their misguided views re: the need for repentance (13:1-5)
 - Calamities don't just befall "great sinners"
 - All are in need of repentance to avoid perishing

Questions:

- 1) Identify the following "parable particulars."
 - The Vineyard Owner _____
 - The Vinedresser _____
 - The Barren Fig Tree _____
- 2) Notice the phrase "...a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard" (v. 6) Do you see any significance to this? (cp. Isa. 5:1-7; Rom. 3:1-2)
- 3) What expectations did the vineyard owner have re: the tree? Had they been met?
- 4) Thought question: do you see any significance to "three years?" (v. 7a) [Consider entire context of Lk. 13, esp. vv. 34-35]

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- 5) What was the vineyard owner's decision? (v. 7b; cp. Mt. 3:10; 7:19) As far as he was concerned, the tree was not just being unfruitful, but what else? (cp. Rom. 2:24; Mt. 23:13, 15)

- 6) What was the vinedresser's response? (vv. 8-9; cp. Rom. 8:24; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:25)

- 7) How does v. 8 illustrate the patience and liberality of God toward those who don't even deserve such Divine favor?

- 8) Judgment will not be based upon appearance, but on what? How does Lk. 12:48 provide the principle echoed in this parable?

- 9) Be able to answer the following:
 - How is this parable "*comforting*?"

 - How is this parable "*sobering*?"

- 10) What is the parable's main lesson?