



GOSPEL STORIES:

JESUS & HIS PARABLES



CALL TO WORSHIP

*The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

-Zephaniah 3:17



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THE BARREN FIG TREE

1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."



THE BARREN FIG TREE

6 And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ 8 And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Luke 13:1-9



THE BARREN FIG TREE

Jesus simply was not in the habit of telling people what they wanted to hear.

1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Everyone knew of the event, but the reason it was mentioned to Jesus is that it was generally believed that victims of calamities and misfortunes were guilty of extraordinary sins that they had kept hidden.



THE BARREN FIG TREE

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THE BARREN FIG TREE

*WE HAVE A TENDENCY TO ASSOCIATE TRAGEDY WITH JUDGMENT
AND FAVOR OR SUCCESS WITH BLESSING (ie Job)*

REPENTANCE is the point and a necessity

*Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such
things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the
judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness
and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness
is meant to lead you to repentance?*

Romans 2:3-4



THE BARREN FIG TREE

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THE BARREN FIG TREE

The great Puritan John Bunyan, a man who lived close to the earth, saw that the caretaker's promise to "dig around it" indicated that its root structure was perhaps earthbound. Bunyan addressed the tree in one of his sermons: "Barren fig-tree! See how the Lord Jesus, by these very words, suggesteth the cause of thy fruitless soul. The things of this world lie too close to thy heart; the earth with its things has bound up thy roots; thou art an earth-bound soul."



THE BARREN FIG TREE

Jesus is saying the issue of not bearing fruit is a root issue. What soil are you setting your roots in?

The disciplines?

Are these practices for you?

*Study
Fasting
Simplicity
Sabbath
Silence & Solitude
Worship
Prayer*



THE BARREN FIG TREE

54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. 55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. 56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luke 12:54-56



THE BARREN FIG TREE

We are the tree

repentance and worship are fruit

Jesus is the caretaker

*Repentance = you understand that you are completely
wicked and yet completely loved b/c of Christ*

*The tree was in the vineyard (good soil) and had all the right
opportunities to produce good fruit and shade and beauty
with the rest of the vineyard.*



THE BARREN FIG TREE

“The gospel makes the worst times bearable and the best times leavable.” John Newton

*Paul understood this completely and it was evident in his life,
the more Paul repented the more power he walked in.*

*Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and
go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of
repentance from dead works and of faith toward God
Hebrews 6:1*



THE BARREN FIG TREE

Jesus intercedes on our behalf, showing us patience and the point is that he is dealing with your heart so don't take it lightly, come to him and it will be "well and good".

JUST DONT PUT IT OFF!

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 PETER 3:8-9

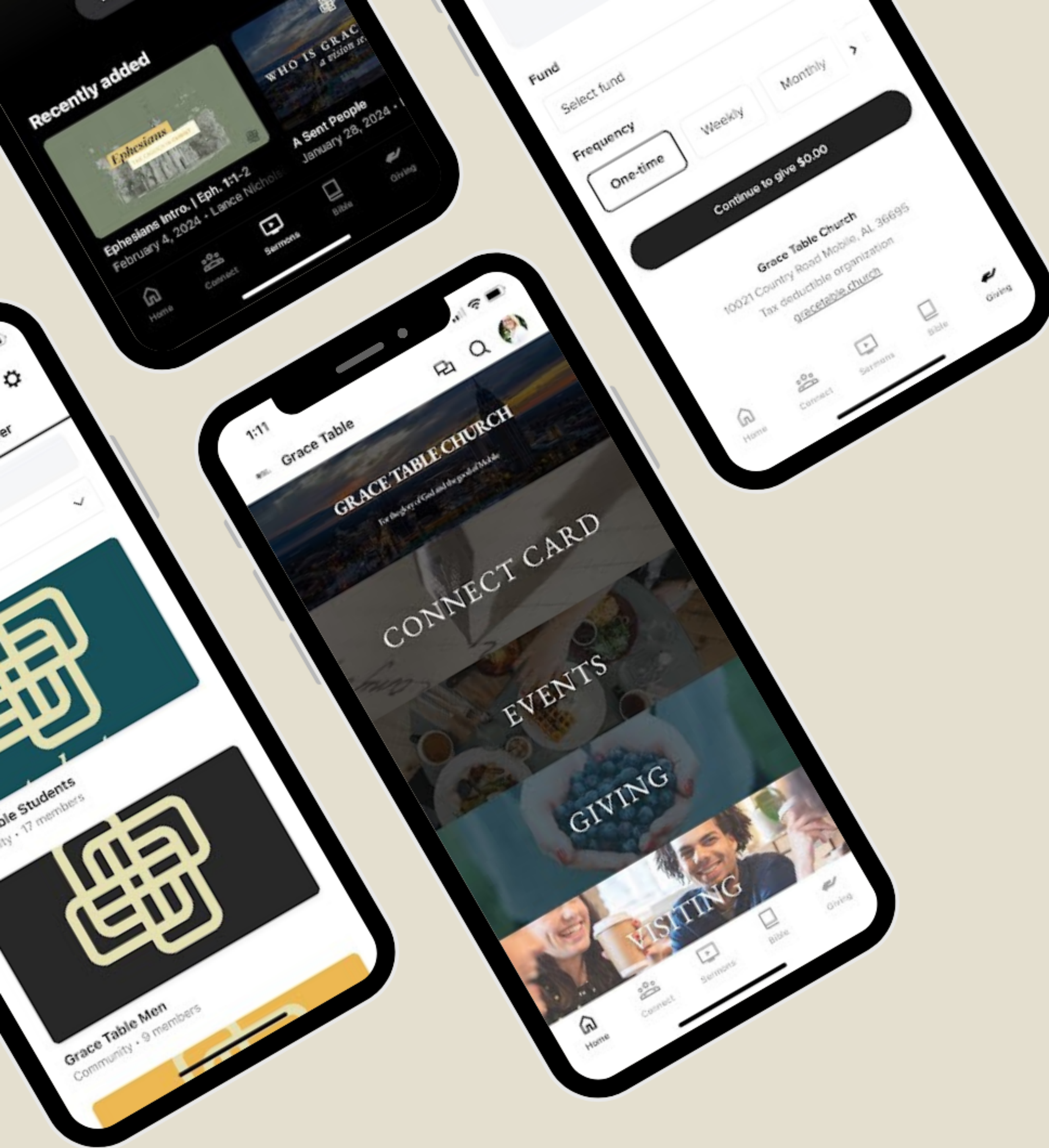




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The Kids Table



SUMMER CAMP



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BENEDICTION

Leader:

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.



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