

## THE PARABLE THIS WEEK:

**Luke 13:1-9 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>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?’ <sup>8</sup>‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

### CONTEXT:

- The people brought up some current situations/events.
- The thought at the time was about why bad or good things happen.
- Jesus is talking to the Jews. This is a warning about what would happen to all the Jews. (See [Matthew 24](#)) It did happen in AD 70!

## 1. GOD WANTS REPENTANCE, AND REPENTANCE PRODUCES FRUIT.

### THE PARABLE: GOD EXPECTS SPECIFIC FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE.

### 2. WHAT KIND OF FRUIT?

- Jesus points out that bad things happen in a fallen world, and we are all sinners. Remember, a parable uses a relatable, relevant story to reveal a spiritual truth.
- The vineyard: We’re chosen by God to be placed in His own special garden.
- The tree should have produced fruit, but it didn’t. It’s taking up space that something else could take.
- **Jesus:** The one who comes and intercedes for the tree to the owner, but it also comes with a warning.
- This warning is for us, too.

**Galatians 5:6 (NIV)** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

**Galatians 5:22–25 (NIV)** <sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup>Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup>Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

- **Key thoughts here: Christianity is about a changed way of thinking, believing, and doing.**
  - So many want to create their own set of beliefs and call it Christian.
  - Some want to set up their own kind of behaviors and call it Christian.
- We have seen that true understanding of the gospel leads to humility, but it also leads to change.

- Repentance is to reject how you used to think and behave and to surrender to Jesus' understanding.

### 3. THE MASTER IS PATIENT. WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL HOW WE JUDGE, TOO.

- The master knows it takes time to grow it; however, there is no fruit on the trees.
- Even then the master of the garden intercedes, but time is running out.
  - Be careful that you don't become the judgmental fruit, expectant and critical, but rather motivational and inspirational.
- However, God's patience does not last forever.

### 4. FRUIT GROWTH IS INTENTIONAL. IT TAKES FERTILIZER, PRUNING, AND WE MUST ABIDE IN JESUS.

**John 15:1-4 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, as I also 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.

#### OUR ROLE IN THE VINEYARD:

- Continue to let God grow you—it brings Him glory and you peace.
- Encourage those around you.
- You are not the fruit inspector; that would mean you are proud and all-knowing.
- However, you can tell a tree by its fruit (consistent fruit).

#### QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY OR FRIENDS:

Passages to consider: **Luke 13:1-9; Galatians 5:1,16-26**

1. What about the sermon and the parable was significant to you?
2. Read **Luke 13:1-9**. Who is Jesus talking to? What does He want them to understand? How does this parable help express what He is communicating?
3. What do you know about fig trees and fruit trees? (*If you don't know anything, no worries, do some research.*) **A)** How does this knowledge help you understand how Jesus is using this parable?
4. What is your understanding of repentance? **A)** Where have you seen examples or experienced repentance yourself?
5. Jesus' work on the cross is the only work that can restore a relationship between a person and God. When we step into that eternal, life-giving relationship, things in us begin to change. Read **Galatians 5:16-26**. What does the passage tell you about repentance and fruit? **A)** What does the fruit in your life look like at this time?
6. What is your response to what Jesus is saying in this week's parable? With whom can you share the story or your response?

Passage to prepare for next week: **Matthew 9:14-17**