

Prayer

Part 10

⁶ *Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.”* ⁷ *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?’* ⁸ *“Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.’* ⁹ *If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”* (Luke 13:6-9)

The message from the fig tree is another example for us to see the word of God and learn more about serving the Lord and about our life of prayer. As we live our lives for God we live according to His plan and doing His will. God should be and He is the Lord and the master of our lives and being. And He visits us and introduces Himself in our lives and interferes with us to teach us good things and to redirect us to do the things that he desire for us to do.

Jesus interferes with our lives to make our lives easier. Jesus every now and then come and does some changes in our lives in order for us to be more effective and more fruitful.

Jesus in the parable of the fig tree His desire is to enjoy the fruit in our lives. Jesus desires to see us more fruitful. His word to you is word of instruction, rebuke, teaching and correction. You may not like it, but that is for your own benefit. As we know that prayer is a communication with God; you speak to God and God also speaks to you. Jesus in the parable of the fig tree is speaking to you, to His church and to everyone and He wants a response and actions to be taken in according to His word.

Jesus is speaking to all of us the following:

- 1- ***For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any:*** Jesus is upset when He is looking to us but He is not finding any fruit or a real progress in our lives. This is the truth and we need to face the truth and the reality.
- 2- ***Cut it down:*** This is a hard warning message from the Lord to us. This language is needed in certain times to bring awakening, repentance, and will gives us the initiative to take certain decisions and suitable actions in order for us to be fruitful and effective.
- 3- ***Why should it use up the soil?:*** Jesus explaining to us why He is speaking hard to us. He is doing that for our own benefit. The fig tree that is without fruit is taking place in the garden, as well as it takes food and waters from other fruitful tree and attention and care from the person who care for the garden.

The Lord today is speaking to you, there are things you are fully occupied with and taking from your time, effort, money, your emotions and your thinking. They are taking spaces from your memory and your daily time and activities but they are unfruitful.

So the Lord is speaking today for your own benefit and good. God wants to help you by removing from you things that are unbeneficial to you and are taking a good space in your life. Non beneficial things that occupy a good space in your life they are turning you into ineffective and non fruitful person. So they are harmful things, and as God directing you to take certain and suitable action then He is speaking to you and warning you for your own benefit.

As God is speaking to you to protect you then you are called to take certain decision and communicate your action to the Lord through prayer as the man who take care of the fig tree spoke to the man the following: ***“Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.’ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”***

- A- ***“leave it alone for one more year.”*** Ask the Lord to give you a last chance to see if there is any benefit from what God is pointing to you as non fruitful thing in your life. Whether project, business, or ministry if it reach the situation that there is no fruit, then it should not be let it go without an action or decision to improve the outcome. We apply this principle also in the ministry, we reach people with evangelism, we spend time, effort and money in discipling them, and we keep things going on for three years then we need to evaluate the situation and be willing to take an action that would glorify God to make us good steward to what He is entrusted to us.
- B- ***“I’ll dig around it.”*** Commit yourself to study the situation and see how you can bring fruit. Try your best to find out what is the reason of non bearing fruit. Pray and ask God to clarify things to you. Study the word of God. And ask advice and counsel from experienced godly people. Check also yourself and dig inside to see what is wrong in you that cause non fruitfulness.
- C- ***“I’ll fertilize it.”*** When you find the real reason, then commit yourself and be sure to do certain things about it. Act and spend and put effort in a time table of one more year. Be honest and act within that time table that is within the limit of God’s word. Understand the time limit is not to squeeze you but to protect you from unnecessary and further losses.
- D- ***“If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”*** Be bold to take your final decision to cut down, get rid, or send away if no fruit reproduced.
- E- ***“If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.”*** God is preparing you for another thing to handle instead of your current non fruitful fig tree.

We need to comply with God’s word and what it dictates to us. Every one of us the Lord had given him certain resources of money, time and effort, then if you spend that unwisely and more on things does not deserve, then you are short when it come to spend on things that you need to spend.

My Dear and Beloved: Set you mind and thoughts with God and program your life and action in accordance to God’s will as you agree to pray. ***My Prayer:*** *“Father God in heaven, I come to You in the name of Jesus who died for me on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word to me. I understand that you are speaking to me in regard to the following subject and ministry _____ . Lord, Leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down. This all I ask and pray, in Jesus’ name, Amen.”*