

A silhouette of a bare tree with many thin branches, set against a warm, golden, hazy background. The tree is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its trunk extending towards the bottom. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

THE
BARREN
FIG TREE

Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .

Review: Parable of the Wedding Feast

■ Matthew 22:1-14

- Parable of the Wedding Feast
- God's calling seems to correspond with the King's invitation. The invitation went out to the original guest list (House of Israel and House of Judah), to the Church and will go to all mankind.
- While God's calling is widespread going out to many, those who choose to respond to the invitation and choose to wear the proper wedding garment could be a smaller group.



Review: Parable of the Wedding Feast

■ Matthew 22:11-13

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

"Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Without A
Wedding
Garment**



Review: Parable of the Wedding Feast

■ Israel did not maintain God's Clothing

- Ezekiel 16:8-22 "...I also clothed you with embroidered cloth and put sandals on your feet and I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk...Also, My bread which I gave you, fine flour, oil and honey which I fed you..."

■ The Church must maintain God's Clothing

- Revelation 19:5-10 "...Let us rejoice and be glad and give glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. It was given to her to clothe herself fine linen, bright and clean; the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb..."

Context: Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Luke 12:35-41

- **“Be dressed in readiness and keep your lamps lit.”**
- **“Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.”**
- **“Blessed are those slaves...on the alert when he comes...whether he comes in the second watch or even the third...You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect.”**
- **“Peter said, ‘Lord are You addressing this parable to us or to everyone else as well?’”**
 - **Parables is given regarding our accountability for what we do with what we know.**
 - **Our relationship with God supersedes all other relationships**
 - **We are responsible for analyzing and judging the signs of relationship with God (like the weather) and living peacefully with everyone.**

Context: Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Luke 13:1-5

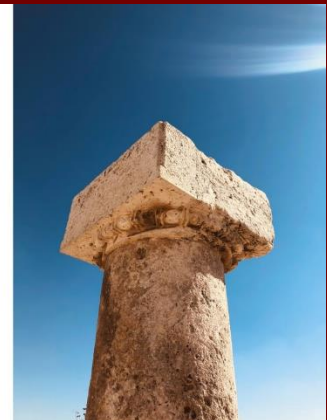
- Two local tragedies used to make the point, that all have sinned and everyone needs to repent or perish.
- Possible attitude that those Galileans who died and Pilate had their blood mixed with the sacrifice deserved to die (implying their righteousness.).
- Possibility of Time and Chance regarding the Tower of Siloam.
- It is not our responsibility to judge the degree of sinfulness of those who die suddenly or violently; meditate on our character and standing before God.

**Wake Up.
God Is Calling You
To Repent Before
It's Too Late.**

Luke 13:1-5

**None is
Righteous**

**Galilean Blood
& the Tower
of Siloam**



Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Luke 13:6-9

- “And He began telling this parable: “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.’”



THE
BARREN
FIG TREE

Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Nature Points to Consider

- ✓ Fig trees require at least three years before the tree is mature enough to bear fruit. This means that when a person comes to look for fruit, it is already in the 4th year of that tree. In this parable, the man had come to the tree after the initial three years were passed. Year after year, for three consecutive years, he came to look for fruit but found none. We may assume therefore that the tree was at least six years old by this stage.
- ✓ 'Cut it down,' the owner said. But the vine-keeper intervened with a plea for patience. He wanted to give the tree one more year. *Let it alone, sir, for this year too* (v. 8). The tree will be seven years old at that time. Perhaps it expresses God's perfect patience. He has waited for a full seven years. In other words, his patience has been expressed to the fullest possible extent. He waits and waits until there is no more hope left.



Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Points to consider

- ✓ It is implied that the owner of the vineyard doesn't need a lot of persuading. In essence he says, 'I will give it one more year. But after that, if it is still fruitless, cut it down'.
- ✓ It appears that **God, the Father is the owner of the vineyard** (we saw that fact in the Parable of the Landowner / Matthew 21:33-40).
- ✓ It appears that **Jesus Christ is the vineyard-keeper.**
 - "Christ is...entered...into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:24
 - "...He ever lives to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25
 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9
 - "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest (a greater Intercessor), that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God...Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."
Hebrews 4:14-16



Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Points to consider

- ✓ It appears the Fig Tree is House of Israel and House of Judah.
- ✓ God, the Father was displeased with His people because of their fruit , brought on due to unfaithfulness, He would make it known by referring to the lack of fruit on a fig tree.
 - Speaking to the House of Judah; Jeremiah 8:13. "I will surely consume them," says the Lord. "No grapes shall be on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things I have given them shall pass away from them."
 - Speaking to the House of Israel; Amos 4:6-11 "...Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the LORD. I smote you with scorching {wind} and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the LORD..."
- ✓ **Jeremiah 24:1-10**
 - "...One basket had very good figs...and the other basket had very bad...For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart, but like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness...I will make them a terror and an evil...I will send the sword, the famine and pestilence upon them..."

How Should We View Similitudes / Parables?

■ Hosea 12:10

- “I have also spoken to the prophets, And I gave numerous visions, And through the prophets I gave parables.”

■ Galatians 6:15-16

- “For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation...those who will walk (follow) by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

■ Romans 9:6-8

- “...For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel...it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.”

- The fig tree is its fruitfulness. It can bear fruit in spring, in summer, in autumn and even in winter. For ten months of the year, a good fig tree can bear fruit, producing up to three crops of figs.
- Fig trees often produce fruit before leaves



Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

■ Our Responsibility

- The time may be short!
- ✓ Consider the warning from John the Baptist / Luke 3:8-9. Therefore bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. The ax is already at the root of the tree that does not bear fruit. That is a very explicit figure of the nearness of the approaching judgment.
- ✓ Considering the context and symbols of The parable of the barren fig tree, it appears Jesus is warning of the judgment that will come upon us, if we fail to respond to His call to repent.
- ✓ We must bear much Godly fruit (life of righteousness from repentance), while God has graciously held back judgment. God's patience will end in judgment, if we do not repent.

GROUP DISCUSSION

