

Lesson 12 – J.R. Graves
Parable of the Barren Fig Tree
Page 141 - 146

Barren Fig Tree – Luke 13:6 – 9

- Generally interpreted to mean sinners only have so much time until final doom
- OR, the fate of a born again person who fails to bear fruit
- - Cannot be the lost because this is Not a thistle or thorn bush but a Fig Tree
- - The Fig Tree needs No change in it's nature to bear fruit – the sinner does
- - If this were a born again person would mean their salvation is tied to works
- - The born again person will Never come into condemnation: [Jhn 5:24] Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Meaning of the Parable

- Believe the Fig Tree is the Jewish Nation
- Believe God is the one Who planted this nation; He owns the vineyard
- Believe the dresser and intercessor represents Christ
- - God brought the Jewish Nation up out of Egypt and planted them in the pleasant land of Canaan.
- - When John the Baptist, the Lord, and the Church were sent to this nation, God had every right to expect to receive fruit from it.
- - The Lord literally was there three and one half years expecting fruit
- - The Lord interceded for more time to be granted to the Jews
- - After His resurrection, the Lord assigned the Church to preach to the Jews first: [Act 1:8] But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- - The time of seeking fruit and finding none PLUS the time of dunging the ground passed. The sentence of being removed so something else could be planted in it's place arrived.

The Parable Revealed in Isaiah

[Isa 5:1-7] Now will I sing to My wellbeloved a song of My beloved touching His vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2 And He fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt Me and My vineyard. 4 What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5 And now go to; I will tell you

what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; [and] break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6 And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briars and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts [is] the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant: and He looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.

The Cursed Fig Tree Withered

- The sentence of death against the Jewish Nation executed
- The sentence was revealed when the Lord sought fruit on the Fig Tree and found none: [Mat 21:19-20] And when He saw a fig tree in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. 20 And when the disciples saw [it], they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!
- The also spoke of this doom when He announced: [Luk 19:41-44] And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things [which belong] unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. 43 For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, 44 And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.
- - This was literally fulfilled less than forty years later when Jerusalem was totally destroyed and the Jews were slaughtered on an unparalleled level.

Questions:

1. Why is the comparison of the fig tree to a lost person unscriptural?
2. In the parable, how many years did the owner come seeking fruit on His fig tree?
3. How many years was the Lord literally ministering in Judea?
4. In the parable from Isaiah, who is represented by the pleasant vine?
5. What happened to the fruitless fig tree when the Lord spoke to it?
6. What happened to Jerusalem in less than forty years from that time?
7. What did the Lord foretell as He wept over Jerusalem?
8. How was the destruction of Jerusalem carried out?