

★ That Ye Bear Much Fruit

1st - 3rd Grade
Lesson 7

The Expectation of Christ

Have you ever seen a fig tree? Fig trees are very wide and very tall. The fruit is pear shaped and very sweet. When Jesus was on earth, figs were very important. People took them to the market and sold them.

One day, Jesus and His disciples were hungry. They saw a fig tree. But when they came to the tree, there were no figs on it. So this is what Jesus did:

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.

—Matthew 21:19

Why did He do that? He did it because He had an important lesson to teach the disciples and us.

God's Law for Fruit Trees: Good Trees Produce Good Fruit.

If you have a fruit tree, you want it to grow fruit. If it doesn't, you will probably cut it down and plant another one. A fruit tree can't have just leaves. It must also grow fruit.

The lesson Jesus wants us to learn from this story is that our lives are like a fruit tree. Things we do to serve Him are the fruits in our lives. Matthew 7:20 says, "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." People will know if you love Jesus by what you do. They will know if you love Him by the way you talk and act.

You may be like the fig tree that had leaves but no fruit. That brings us to the second lesson Jesus wants us to learn from this story.

What God Expects from His Trees: Fruit

Jesus tells us in John 15:5, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." Proverbs 27:18 says, "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honored." Jesus is saying that, when we have fruit in our lives, God is honored.

Like a good farmer, Jesus works in our lives to help us be good, healthy Christians that have a lot of fruit. A good farmer cuts off dead branches and dead leaves. He gets rid of old, dried up fruit. The farmer digs around the bottom of the tree so it can get plenty of food and water from the soil.

Jesus works in our lives to help us get rid of bad habits that keep us from being good Christians. He uses our parents and teachers to help us grow in our Christian lives. He teaches us how to serve Him and to tell others about Him. He does all this to make us strong, healthy Christians.

How to Be a Fruitful Tree: Abiding in Christ

There are things we Christians must do so that our lives will bear fruit for Jesus.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

—John 15:4

Have you ever seen an old, dead branch lying on the ground? Did it have lots of juicy fruit on it? Of course not! The branch must be growing on a healthy tree, or it will not have good fruit. In the same way, a Christian must be attached to Jesus in order to do the things that please Him. That means we must first know Him as our Savior. Then we must read and obey His Word. We must talk with Him in prayer. When we do these things, He will help us grow fruit in our lives.

Conclusion

Figs are very sweet. As Christians, we should be sweet, like figs. We should do and say things that help others. Like a good tree, we should have good fruit. We can do this by spending time with Jesus.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

—John 15:8

Teacher's Notes
