



Evidence of Repentance

By Shannon Ford on January 19, 2022

READING: Luke 13

Before Jesus delivered the parable of the fig tree in Luke 13, the problem of human suffering was being discussed. The first event mentioned concerned a murder, the second a disaster. While we are not familiar with these events, they were apparently noteworthy in Jesus' day as everyone seemed to know about them. An important note in the context is the repetition of the phrase, *"I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish"* (vv. 3, 5).

This parable does not require as much background information. Perhaps the only information we need to know is that fig trees were often planted in vineyards as were other types of trees. The fig tree had a better than average chance of thriving and producing fruit in the climate and soil and would usually produce three crops per year. At the end of the parable the vineyard-owner extends mercy to the unfruitful fig tree. He gives it another year to bear fruit, but even the vineyard-keeper confirms that judgment is inevitable. Either the tree will bear fruit, or it will be cut down.

As the creator (owner), God has a right to expect His creation to bear the fruit that is consistent with its purpose and opportunity. Man's sin is represented by the unfruitfulness of the fig tree. Sin is falling short, failure, or lack of fruit. God is within His right to declare judgment and call for His unfruitful creation to be destroyed. Just as the fig tree had opportunity to become fruitful, so God gives each of us the chance to repent, to change his mind and actions, and become a fruit bearer. Repentance is the key factor in the parable for those who wish to enter the Kingdom of God. Bearing fruit is the key factor for those who are already part of the Kingdom of God as evidence of our repentance!

PRAYER: Lord, You have blessed us so much through Jesus Christ, and we are to glorify God by bearing fruit. Lord, show us the sin in our life that is preventing us from bearing more fruit. Help us live in repentance so our lives can glorify You. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 14

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