

*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. 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?' "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.'" Luke 13:6-9*

## **Bearing Fruit**

It is the desire of my heart to bear fruit for you. **Where do you think that desire to bear fruit came from?** It certainly did not originate with me. **No, it did not.** You chose and appointed me to bear fruit for you. **Yes, I did. What kind of fruit do you want to bear for me?** I want to bear fruit for you that will last. For much of life, I have used my time, talents, and resources on work that will not last. I was doing my own thing and not really relying on you to guide or empower my efforts. I have learned that apart from you, I can really accomplish nothing that will last. **No, you cannot. But, can you clarify what you mean when you say you want fruit that will last.** I'd be happy to. When I am in heaven with you, I want to be able to look back and say that I'm glad that I obeyed you and did this or that. I want to be able to look around heaven and see people that are there because of how you used me to reach out to them. **So, you want your fruit to last for eternity?** Yes, I do. **You no longer want to waste your efforts on what will be of no lasting eternal value?** No, I don't. **Those are very good desires and priorities.**

**Let's talk about fruit a little more. Do you know that there are two different kinds of fruit?** No, I don't think that I do. **Well it's important that you do.** What are these two types of fruit? Why is it so important that I understand that there are two kinds of fruit? **The first fruit is the fruit of "being".** What does that mean? **It is the fruit of becoming the person that I want you to be. I am tending to your life. I am giving you everything you need to grow and become who you are meant to be.** When you say the "fruit of being", is that like the fruit of the Holy Spirit? **Yes, exactly.** So you want me to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control? **Yes, I do. Being the person I want you to be will make you able to bear the second kind of fruit.** What's that? **That is the fruit that you most often think of. It is the fruit of "doing".** **Is there a problem with focusing on this kind of fruit?** Yes, there is. **Can you tell me what that problem might be?** I think I can. **Go ahead then.** If I'm so focused on "doing" something, I might end up doing the wrong thing with my own strength and not bearing any real, lasting fruit at all. **Yes, that's it.** You want me to bear the fruit of being who you want me to become and doing what you want me to do at the same time. **Yes, I do.** Aren't they really inseparable anyhow? Isn't it impossible to bear the fruit of doing if I don't have the fruit of being? **I'm glad that you see this. Yes, these two fruits must go together if you want to bear fruit for me.** Yes, Lord that's exactly what I want. **I can see that. Abide in me and you will bear an abundance of fruit that will last for all eternity.** Yes Lord, I will.

*Lord, it is my desire and joy to be used by you. Nourish, prepare and strengthen me so that I can bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and glory. Remove anything from my life that will hinder my growth and ability to be used by you to bear fruit for you. Amen*

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

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. 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?' "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.'"

NIV

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.' "The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'"

NLT

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

NRSV

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

And He told them this parable: A certain man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it, but did not find [any]. So he said to the vinedresser, See here! For these three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and I find none. Cut it down! Why should it continue also to use up the ground [to deplete the soil, intercept the sun, and take up room]? But he replied to him, Leave it alone, sir, [just] this one more year, till I dig around it and put manure [on the soil]. Then perhaps it will bear fruit after this; but if not, you can cut it down and out.

AMP

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

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.'"

NASB

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

ESV

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

NKJV

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

Then he told them a story: "A man had an apple tree planted in his front yard. He came to it expecting to find apples, but there weren't any. He said to his gardener, 'What's going on here? For three years now I've come to this tree expecting apples and not one apple have I found. Chop it down! Why waste good ground with it any longer?' "The gardener said, 'Let's give it another year. I'll dig around it and fertilize, and maybe it will produce next year; if it doesn't, then chop it down.' "

MSG

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

Then he used this illustration: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if he could find any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally he told his gardener to cut it down. 'I've waited three years and there hasn't been a single fig!' he said. 'Why bother with it any longer? It's taking up space we can use for something else.' " 'Give it one more chance,' the gardener answered. 'Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine; if not, I'll cut it down.' "

TLB

Luke 13:6-9

**Parables***Unfruitful Fig Tree*

Jesus told this story: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for some fruit on the tree, but he found none. So the man said to his gardener, 'I have been looking for fruit on this tree for three years, but I never find any. Cut it down. Why should it waste the ground?' But the servant answered, 'Master, let the tree have one more year to produce fruit. Let me dig up the dirt around it and put on some fertilizer. If the tree produces fruit next year, good. But if not, you can cut it down.' "

NCV

Luke 13:6-9

# Unfruitful Fig Tree

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parables** – Luke 13:6-9

**In Context:** *Read Luke 13*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God’s Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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. 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?' "'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.'" Luke 13:6-9

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

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. | 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?' | "'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.'" Luke 13:6-9

**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, it is my desire and joy to be used by you. Nourish, prepare and strengthen me so that I can bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom and glory. Remove anything from my life that will hinder my growth and ability to be used by you to bear fruit for you. Amen

**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How has the Lord been preparing you to be used by Him to bear fruit for His glory?

**What gifts, talents, and abilities has the Lord given you so that you can bear fruit for Him?**

Where has the Lord planted and nurtured you so that you could bear fruit for Him?

**What will help or hinder your ability to be used by God to bear fruit for Him?**

How has God’s word given you spiritual nourishment so that you can grow and bear fruit for God?

**How has the Holy Spirit empowered and used you to bear fruit for the glory of God?**

What joy have you had in being used by God so that you could bear fruit for Him?

**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow the Lord to nourish, prepare and strengthen you to be used by Him to bear fruit for His glory.

**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord is preparing you to be used by Him so that you will bear fruit for His glory.

**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has used you to bear fruit for Him.

**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

