

28 Parables of Jesus All Leave But No Fruit

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

COL Chapter 17 Entitled: "Spare it this Year Also"

What does God include with every message of warning and judgment?

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand;

Joel 2:12-13

- 12** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:
- 13** And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Zephaniah 2:1-3

- 1** Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;
- 2** Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.
- 3** Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Eze 33:11 Say unto them, *As* I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Isa 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Christ in His teaching linked with the warning of judgment the invitation of mercy. "The Son of man is not come," He said, "to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Luke 9:56. "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:17. His mission of mercy in its relation to God's justice and judgment is illustrated in the parable of the barren fig tree. COL 212

What message concerning the judgment of God and the last days did Jesus give the multitude before He gave the parable of the barren tree?

Luke 12:54-56

- 54** And he said also to the people, **When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.**
- 55** **And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.**
- 56** **Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?**

The Jewish nation at the time of Christ was very comfortable about their religious status. They felt secure that they were the favored ones of heaven with automatic Heaven citizenship because of their connection with Abraham.

Why did Jesus give such a straight and urgent message to the Jewish nation?

Daniel 9:24-25

- 24** Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.
- 25** Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

457 BC (rebuilding of Jerusalem) [70 weeks x 7 = 490 years] >>>34 AD Probation closed. Jesus was pleading with Jewish people to make an end to sin because their probation as nation of God's special chosen people was about to end in 3 ½ years!

Matthew 18:21-22

- 21** Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?
- 22** Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

In other words Jesus just reveal how long-suffering and patient that He has been to the Israelite nation. It is interesting in answering Peter's question that 7×70 also equaled to the time that God gave Israel to make and end to sin. ($7 \times 70 = 490$)

What happen after Jesus gave the multitude His message of warning?

Luk 13:1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Here there were a group of Galileans (non-Jewish) who devised a plan to cause and uprising in Jerusalem. Pilate the Roman Governor wanted to put an end to the uprising. While the Galileans were in the boundary of the temple walls Pilate men slew the Galileans during the time of the sacrifices.

At this point the Jewish multitude knew that Jesus was going to condemn the actions of the Galileans and that they deserved to die because they were sinners and not heirs to Abraham's seed. These Galileans were pilgrims actually making a sacrifice in the temple.

What was Jesus' response?

Luke 13:2-5

- 2** And Jesus answering said unto them, **Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?**
- 3** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
- 4** Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?
- 5** I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Wow! Jesus revealed to the multitude that they were in sin and need to repent! This is exactly what Jesus is telling His "professed" people today! The same message, repent! Jesus knew that the probation of Israel would close in 34 AD and that the total destruction of the Jerusalem would be about 40 years afterwards in 70AD.

What is the parable of the barren tree that Jesus gives next?

Luke 13:6-9

- 6** He spake also this parable; **A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.**
- 7** Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these **three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree**, and find none: **cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?**

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:
 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

In the parable the fig tree was ALL LEAVES BUT NO FRUIT!

What was the owner of the fig tree in the parable seeking? Fruit

How many years was he seeking fruit? Three years! No fruit

What did he find? A fig tree that was suppose to producing figs, but NO FRUIT.

What was the main purpose of the fig tree? To produce figs!

If the fig tree is not fulfilling its purpose, what is it worth? Nothing, it is in the way.

The fig tree owner said “why cumbereth it the ground?” (Luke 13:7)

Cumbereth (Greek) - to be (render) entirely idle (useless). Strong's Greek Dictionary

What did he (owner of the fig tree) instruct his dresser (pruner) to do?

Cut it DOWN! It was idle entirely useless!

What was the dresser request to the owner of the fig tree? Give it one more year, until next season when it is suppose to bear fruit.

What will the dresser being doing to the fruit tree during that extended time?

He would put a lot of attention to the tree by breaking up the soil around the tree and giving it dung (compost) to fertilize and give nutrients it needs to produce fruit.

Who did the fig tree represent in the parable of the barren tree?

“Christ's hearers could not misunderstand the application of His words. David had sung of Israel as the vine brought out of Egypt. Isaiah had written, "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant." Isaiah 5:7. The generation to whom the Saviour had come were represented by the fig tree in the Lord's vineyard--within the circle of His special care and blessing.” COL 214

God's people (Israel) represented the fig tree. Out of compassion and care instead of cutting it down he said he would take care of the tree one more year. This is how much Jesus cared for His people, but He warned them of a coming judgment if they do not bear fruit.

Today, the fig tree represent the professed people of God who have ALL the light of both the law and testimonies like Israel did, but bear NO FRUIT!

What is God's purpose among His people that relates to a fig tree?

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

“God's purpose toward His people, and the glorious possibilities before them, had been set forth in the beautiful words, "That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified," Isaiah 61:3. The dying Jacob, under the Spirit of inspiration, had said of his best-loved son, "Joseph is a fruitful

bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall." And he said, "The God of thy Father" "shall help thee," the Almighty "shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under." Genesis 49:22, 25. So God had planted Israel as a goodly vine by the wells of life. He had made His vineyard "in a very fruitful hill." He had "fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine." Isaiah 5:1, 2.

What does the fruit represent that was not on barren the fig tree?

Galatians 5:22-26

- 22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- 23** Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
- 24** And they that are Christ's [those with the fruit of the Spirit] have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.
- 25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- 26** Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Who does the merciful dresser of the vine yard represent? Jesus

"The owner and the dresser of the vineyard are one in their interest in the fig tree. So the Father and the Son were one in their love for the chosen people." COL 216

Were Israel (its leaders and people) found with the fruit of the Spirit at the time of Jesus? NO

How many years was Jesus actively ministering to Israel and its leaders (dig and dung)?

3 years, no fruit at the end the leaders wanted to kill him. Jesus still gave them mercy and opportunity to bear fruit. They killed him (he allow – laid down his life). His blood and sacrifice was the dung to help them bear the fruit. But as a nation they rejected it and in the end still beared no fruit.

What was the command even after the fruit tree was given another year and dungened and still bared to no fruit? CUT IT DOWN. Probation Closed.

"God in His Son had been seeking fruit, and had found none. Israel was a cumberer of the ground. Its very existence was a curse; for it filled the place in the vineyard that a fruitful tree might fill. It robbed the world of the blessings that God designed to give. The Israelites had misrepresented God among the nations. They were not merely useless, but a decided hindrance. To a great degree their religion was misleading, and wrought ruin instead of salvation." COL 215

Does Jesus give Israel an invitation of mercy in the midst of their apostasy?

It is clear here that Israel was given extra time, but at the same time they were given a judgment and an invitation of mercy! Their literal probation in 34 AD was about to close and they were not bearing fruit! The Jewish nation's judgment as a people was set and the people did not discern that that their probation was about to close!

"In the parable the dresser of the vineyard does not question the sentence that the tree, if it remained fruitless, should be cut down; but he knows and shares the owner's interest in that barren tree. Nothing could give him greater joy than to see its growth and fruitfulness. He responds to the desire of the owner, saying, "Let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it and dung it; and if it bear fruit, well." COL 215

How does this parable directly relate to us/YOU today? We ALL need to examine our own hearts. Do you

have a tree full of leaves, but no fruit! Week after week you made promises to God but broke them. Have you made commitments to God but failed? Commitments to let go of selfishness, sin, and worldliness?

"The warning sounds down along the line to us in this generation. Are you, O careless heart, a fruitless tree in the Lord's vineyard? Shall the words of doom ere long be spoken of you? How long have you received His gifts? How long has He watched and waited for a return of love? Planted in His vineyard, under the watchful care of the gardener, what privileges are yours! How often has the tender gospel message thrilled your heart! You have taken the name of Christ, you are outwardly a member of the church which is His body, and yet you are conscious of no living connection with the great heart of love. The tide of His life does not flow through you. The sweet graces of His character, "the fruits of the Spirit," are not seen in your life." COL 216

Why does a barren christian only have leaves?

Selfishness, sin, worldliness, mixing. Inactive in doing God's work. Waste time. Idle. Etc....

Can a person depend on their righteous relationship they had with God in the past even though they are now fruitless?

Ezekiel 33:12-15

- 12 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his *righteousness* in the day that he sinneth.
- 13 When I shall say to the righteous, *that* he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.
- 14 Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right;
- 15 *If* the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

What is Jesus calling all fruitless professed Christians to do?

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Hosea 14:1-2

- 1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.
- 2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive *us* graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Mat 4:17 ... Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

What does Jesus stay to those who refuse but still profess and have leaves only?

Luke 13:24-28

- 24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.
- 25 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:
- 26 Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.
- 27 But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all *ye* workers of iniquity.

28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

We all must bear fruit. There will be no fruitless “trees” in the kingdom of heaven.

What is the urgent warning of judgment for our day?

Revelation 14:6-11

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.
 8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.
 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,
 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:
 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Remember with the judgment of God He gives His invitation of mercy! Your probation is soon to close friend. Will you be a tree full of leaves with NO FRUIT or a tree FULL of FRUIT!

The Mark of the Beast Crisis is RIGHT UPON US

Satan is stealthy setting up the infrastructure the enforcement of the false Sabbath worship Sunday worship through he Paris Agreement on Climate Change, labor unions, and the ecumenical movement of world religions.

Latest prophecy news

113 Parties have ratified, of 197 Parties to the Convention

On 5 October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016.

Marrakech Climate Change Conference - November 2016

First session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1) were held in Marrakech, Morocco from 7-18 November 2016.

“The Conference successfully demonstrated to the world that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is underway and the constructive spirit of multilateral cooperation on climate change continues.”

website: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

“The Marrakech call is loud and clear: nothing can stop global climate action. The momentum for the adoption of the Paris Agreement was enabled by Parties and non-Parties stakeholders taking action to address climate

change and undertaking to progressively enhance the ambition of this action.

At the same time, there is universal recognition that if we are to realise the goals of the Paris Agreement, we must all go further and faster in delivering climate action before 2020..."

http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf

RELIGIOUS LEADERS AT COP 22 CALL FOR ADDENDUM TO PARIS AGREEMENT: 33 PERCENT REDUCTIONS IN GREED, HATRED AND IGNORANCE

"Marrakech, Morocco, November 17, 2016 - Religious leaders who gathered at the UNFCCC Climate Conference COP 22 in Marrakech called for an addendum to the Paris Agreement to help nations meet their climate reduction goals. In addition to reducing carbon emissions, the religious delegation at the COP 22 proposed efforts to mitigate human greed, ignorance and hatred of the "other" -- which are at the root of the devastating climate crisis. According to the delegation, if the human community is to learn to live within the carrying capacity of Earth to survive then a major shift in consciousness is required. As an outcome of the Marrakech conference, religious leaders announced a new Interreligious Climate Agreement to guide the way forward for the human community."

"We need a reduction in the emissions of greed, hatred and ignorance," said African Buddhist monk and founder of the Uganda Buddhist Center, Venerable Bhante Buddharakita.

By reframing the environmental crisis as a spiritual and cultural one, communities can be mobilized to renew their relationship with nature and adopt approaches that conserve and protect the planet.

"The climate crisis is at heart a spiritual crisis, and that is why we bring spiritual leaders each year to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences," said Dena Merriam, founding member of the Contemplative Alliance and founder of The Global Peace Initiative of Women, organizer of the religious delegation. "The human community is being called to undergo a spiritual transformation in order to affect the economic, political and social changes needed. If we place Mother Earth at the center of our thinking and consider how our acts affect Her communities of life, we will find our way forward."

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/religious_leaders_call_for_33_percent_reductions_in_greed_hatred_and_ignorance.pdf

Paris Agreement framed after Pope Francis Encyclical on Climate Change that pushes for Sunday worship and the Mass as a solution to climate change and helping the poor.

The push for a false Sabbath Sunday law is heating up more and more each week

EU bishops back Pillar of Social Rights, call for recognition of Sunday rest (November 23, 2016)

The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) have renewed their support of the European Pillar of Social Rights, an EU document on labor, education, and other social issues.

In recent comments on the draft document, COMECE called for a recognition of Sunday rest.

"As in times of digitalization of the economy, the boundaries between private and work-life become increasingly blurred, COMECE proposes to incorporate decent working hours and the right to a common weekly day of rest," the bishops' commission stated. "This day should be in principal the Sunday, which is recognized by tradition and custom in most of the member states or regions."

<https://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=30022>

The Sabbath or the Lord's Day (Catholic News Agency)

"Recently we received an 80-page booklet entitled "What's Behind The New World Order?" It admits to be a collection of excerpts from the book, Will America Survive?, which was originally published 100 years ago under the title, The Great Controversy. This book was written by E.G. White, foundress of the Seventh Day Adventists. It claims that the Catholic Church is behind the New World Order. The booklet claims that this is true, since the Church is the beast of Revelation (Rev 17). It accuses the Church of many evil things and attempts to prove that the Church is the beast by exposing the "marks of the beast."

It is alleged that in the fourth century the Church and Emperor Constantine replaced the Sabbath with the pagan "DAY OF THE SUN", i.e. Sunday. Now it is true that the Old Testament says the "seventh day" but assigning that to Saturday is Hebrew tradition. As Christians, we must consider this in the light of the New Testament and the teachings of Christ. If this is a "mark of the beast", almost all Christian churches today bear the mark too.

It is true that the Catholic Church through the authority of Christ replaced the Hebrew Sabbath (Saturday) with the Lord's Day (Sunday); however, this occurred very early - well before the time of Emperor Constantine in the fourth century.

God in His wisdom knows that we need to set one day a week special to Him. Otherwise we would become so busy with our daily work that we may forget about Him and lose our Faith. Now the essential point of the Third Commandment is that we set one day a week holy to the Lord. But specifically observing Saturday as this day is only ceremonial. As baptism replaced circumcision (Col 2:11-12) for Christians, so does Sunday replace Saturday. Observance of the Lord's Day is not a "mark of the beast" but the mark of being Christian."

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resources/apologetics/catholic-doctrines-and-practices/the-sabbath-or-the-lords-day/>

What does the beast, Papal Rome, say is its distinctive "mark" of authority?

"Sunday is our Mark of authority....The church is ABOVE the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact." - Catholic Record, September 1, 1923

"Of course the Catholic Church claims that the change [of the Sabbath to Sunday] was her act. It could not have been otherwise, as none in those days would have dreamed of doing anything in matters spiritual and ecclesiastical and religious without her. And **THE ACT IS A MARK** of ecclesiastical power and authority in religious matters." - James Cardinal Gibbons, in a letter to J.F. Snyder of Bloomington, Illinois, dated November II, 1895, and signed by H.F. Thomas, Chancellor for the Cardinal

The enforcement of Sunday "false" Sabbath is the Mark of the Beast

[Show picture of the local propaganda of car dealership in Monroe... Local Wadesboro sign and hobby lobby sign.]

"To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law....By the decree enforcing the institution of the papacy in violation of the law of God our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. . . .

As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached."--Testimonies Vol. 5 p, 451

(1885).

"The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. . . . They are working in blindness. They do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages."-- Review and Herald Extra, Dec. 11, 1888.