



---Message Notes

The Best is Yet to Come: 'The Parable of the Fig Tree'

October 9-10, 2021, Pastor Joel Schmidgall

The Four Hopes

Authentic Hope - Committed, action oriented, faith-filled

False Hope - Wishful, distorted reality

Lost Hope – Given up, discouraged

No Hope - Helpless, defeated

Luke 13 - The Parable of the Fig Tree: it is a parable of possibility

The **BEST IS YET TO COME** in this story is not a statement of fact, it's a declaration of hope. And that declaration of hope is an activation of faith.

[Luke 13:6-9](#)

Different interpretations of the elements of this parable.

1. The owner is Pagan. The Gardner is Jewish. And the tree is producing the first fruits that the gardener has to protect (because of the Old Testament Jewish law that would not allow produce to be consumed in the first seasons) [Leviticus 19](#)
2. The Owner is God, the individual (you) are the Gardner, and the tree is the things in your life that that aren't fruitful. And if you cultivate those areas of your life, you can hopefully produce good things for God.
3. **The owner is God, the Gardner is Jesus, the vineyard is the kingdom community. And the tree is the individual (you).** [Isaiah 5:7](#)

- As the owner, God watches over, cares for, believes in and expects of you as his creation.
- As the Gardner Jesus invested three years into the tree, so Jesus gave his three years of earthly ministry. Jesus seeks God for grace to be extended to his people. And then will do anything to help cultivate growth within us.
- **You and I – are we producing that which we were made to produce?**

A parable that shows **potential unrealized**. The parable teaches us key elements in producing the best that is yet to come.

Five Principles of Producing

1. The tree is planted with purpose - [Luke 13:6](#)

The fig tree is planted in the vineyard. It seems like it is in the wrong place.

You can let the enemy tell you you're in the wrong place, there's nothing for you to accomplish and you can remain fruitless. Or you can realize, when you're a fig tree in a vineyard, you have the most unique fruit in the valley! You have fruit that will absolutely flourish and uniquely bless those around you.

“Your uniqueness is not wrongly placed, it is precisely placed.” - Pastor Joel Schmidgall

The only reason to look at your neighbor's fruit is to make sure they have enough.

2. The master is patient and urgent [Isaiah 5:1-2](#)

Jesus' audience probably picks up on this when he is telling the parable and anticipates where the parable is going. But it takes an interesting twist. Instead of ripping the vineyard apart, the master has mercy. He offers another chance and extends grace in patience believing that the tree will respond and repent.

- This parable is ultimately a story of repentance which leads to transformation.
- He was waiting with patience for it to produce. But he was also watching with a sense of urgency.
- God has incredible patience and mercy on us. Yet he has expectation and belief in us. Not for some day – but for today. We have a call to mission now!

You are planted with a purpose - The master is patient and urgent

3. The vinedresser cares deeply for the tree - [Romans 8:34](#)

He pleads for more time for the fig tree in the parable.

“Leave it alone” he says. It’s the Greek verb *aphiemi* which is used 133 times in the NT and about 49 times is translated “forgive”. The compassionate vinedresser is interceding for the tree to be forgiven and given another chance.

4. The tree has to be pruned - [Isaiah 13:8](#)

Jesus is saying I will do the hard things that it takes to produce something out of this tree.

Disruptive innovation

Disruptive innovation is a business term that describes when an industry pattern or norm is challenged by innovation usually coming from smaller or grass roots companies. It will often transform industry for the better, taking things to the next level. It shakes everything up from the bottom up, instead of top down. It’s digging up the established ground to change things for the better.

God uses that which is uncomfortable. He uses that which is painful to bring about the disruption that is innovation that will allow us to produce that which we were made for.

There are moments in life where we’ve got to stop lamenting the hardship or the pain, and start embracing the struggle.

Start asking the question: God how can I be built up through this?

[James 1:2-4](#)

5. Activation Leads to Production

This scripture leaves you wanting. There is no clear ending. It is left to possibilities and so is our lives.

- Our gift needs to be activated.
- [Luke 13:5](#) - you too will perish unless you repent.
- The activation code is repentance. We are called to repent.

- It's not just the absence of that which was done wrong. It's the presence of fruit being produced in our lives.
- **If the judge called you in tomorrow to give evidence from the fruit of your actions, what would be your case and what would be the outcome?**
- Lean into authentic hope. True authentic hope always flows out of hope in Christ

A PRAYER to PRAY:

Our Father in Heaven teach us to appreciate the digging and pruning and dunging that needs to happen in our lives so that we can repent sincerely and activate the mission of our lives. Help us to understand the purpose for the pain, to believe in the true hope that is in Christ. Guide us to truly believe in our faith and our purpose. Let today be the day that we repent with a sincere heart, where we receive the hope that cannot be taken away, and where we learn what it truly means to be a follower of Christ. All this we pray in Jesus' name Amen.

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