



LUKE 13:6-9

EXHORTING THE ENTITLED

Big Idea:

Real repentance produces real fruit, and it needs to happen really soon.

-- The urgent call of **REPENTANCE** is the issue Jesus is addressing with the "Parable of the Barren Fig Tree" (Luke 3:8-9, 13:1-5).

1.) God's **PATIENCE** is **PERFECT** (v. 6-7).

- When God's final judgment finally comes, His **PATIENCE** will have been enacted to its fullest possible extent (2 Peter 3:9).
- God's patience should not be presumed upon, because the seventh day will come and unfruitful trees will be thrown into the fire.

2.) Jesus **PLEADS** for His **PEOPLE** (v. 8).

- The owner of the vineyard refers to God Himself (Mat. 21:33-41).
- The vinedresser who **INTERCEDES** for us is an image of Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5, Luke 22:31-32.)
- Not only is Jesus giving us time to come to repentance, but He is working in us and around us to help us turn away from self and sin and enter into the life of God.
- Jesus is calling us to lives of fruitful repentance, and if we will trust in Him, He will both intercede for us by His mercy and empower us by His grace (Philippians 2:12-13).

3.) Eschew the **ENTITLEMENT** mentality (v. 9).

- The barren fig tree in the parable is an image of the fruitless people of **ISRAEL** (Jeremiah 24, Mat. 21:18-22).
- The people who should have been most the most fruitful people on

- earth (the people of God) were not being fruitful at all.
- Rather than producing motivation to love and live for God, Israel's privileged status produced within them a spirit of **ENTITLEMENT**
 - It wasn't sufficient to be located in God's vineyard, the fig tree needed to produce the fruit of repentance (Luke 3:8-9).
 - Jesus is warning us very directly that if we do not eschew an entitlement mentality, it will bring about our demise.
 - The time left for us to turn back to God and bring forth the fruit of sincere repentance is very **SHORT** (Luke 3:8-9).

Application

1.) **BEWARE** of spiritual entitlement.

- Be sure your salvation rests in sincere faith and trust in Christ.
- *Is Christ everything to you, or is He just an entitlement to you?*

2.) Check **YOURSELF** for real fruit of real repentance.

- *Is there fruit of real repentance and faith in your life? (Galatians 5)*
 - *Are you more like Christ than you were five years ago?*
 - *Are you more satisfied in Christ today than you were when you first believed?*
 - *Are you growing in your devotion to and service to the things of Christ that you were ten years ago?*
- The sign of real repentance is real Christian **FRUIT**
 - *Does the overall momentum of your life demonstrate that you really do belong to Him?*
 - Real repentance produces real fruit, and it needs to happen really soon.