

Bible Class Notes – Studies in The New Testament – Lesson 81

Good News of Salvation in the Saviour’s Parables

This week – We continue our series of lessons based on some Parables of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens, and ye would not!”
Matthew 23v37.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 13v1-10 (The Lord’s patience with sinners)	
Monday	Luke 6v27-38 (Some fruits of Christian living)	
Tuesday	Luke 6v39-49 (A good tree brings forth good fruit)	
Wednesday	Galatians 5v16-26 (The fruit of the Spirit)	
Thursday	Psalm 103 (The Lord is always merciful and gracious)	
Friday	2 Peter 3v1-18 (God’s patience with sinners)	
Saturday	Isaiah 53v1-12 (The Lord’s agony on Calvary)	

Important Thought for us Today: What is the Longsuffering of God? (See 2 Peter 3v9) *To suffer long is to be extremely patient - regardless of the offences and injuries done to us by others; not quick to assume the worst, or pick a fight, but slow to anger and punish.* This is an attribute of God’s mercy. He is holy and has every right to be angry with our sin and rebellion. He has declared that sin must be punished, and He will certainly keep this promise. Yet God is also merciful and slow to anger. He loves sinners but not their sin. His wonderful love is shown by His sending His own beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to live as a Man amongst us, yet in total perfection. (John 3v16). Isaiah 53 details how Christ suffered long at the hands of sinful man. His response? Out of love, He patiently took the punishment that we sinners deserve upon Himself - God’s awesome wrath on the Cross of Calvary. In mercy, God continues to show His longsuffering love even when we hold back and delay responding to The Gospel Call to repentance and faith. He says to us, **‘Behold, now is the Day of Salvation’**, 2 Corinthians 6v2. Come while there is time, do not wait or delay. Come to this longsuffering God who is able and willing to save and forgive.

Hymn 463 A prayer asking that God will speak to us through the Gospel Call, and we to others:

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| <p>1. Lord speak to me, that I may speak
In loving echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.</p> | <p>6. O, use me, Lord even me,
Just as Thou wilt, and when, and where,
Until Thy blessed face I see,
Thy rest, Thy joy, Thy glory share.</p> |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible

The Barren Fig Tree.

- **A Parable of A Vineyard Owner and His Fig Tree.**
 - **The Vineyard** – God’s Creation - The world and all that lives within it.
 - **The Owner** – Sovereign God Who is **King** of kings, **Lord** of lords.
 - **The Fig Tree** – The people who God has placed on the earth (including us) with the expectation to live bearing ‘good fruit’ to Him. (Galatians 5v22-23).
 - **The Vineyard Keeper** – The Lord Jesus Christ, The Saviour of lost sinners.
- **The Special Attraction of a Fig Tree to an Eastern Vineyard Owner.**
 - **Very Useful** – Gives shade, growing 10 metres high with a metre wide trunk.
 - **Very Fruitful** – Expected to fruit, even within its first year, and then to normally continue to produce good fruit twice every year.
 - **Nutritious, tasty and health promoting** - even used as a medication.
 - **A Status Symbol** – It showed that the owner had a successful vineyard.
- **The Fig Tree Had Failed to Grow Fruit – Even After 3 Years.**

○ **The Owner** - Deeply disappointed – Fruit was the main purpose of the tree.
His Verdict – “Cut it down, it is a total waste of space, time, and energy.”

What is God’s verdict on our life? Do we disappoint God our Owner? Are we living as God made us to, showing Christian ‘Fruit’? Will He judge or praise us?

- **The Vineyard Keeper’s Plea** – Showing the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ.
“Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: and if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then cut it down.” Luke 13v7.

Christ Pleads for us: God is longsuffering and merciful to us by allowing us an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and be changed; making us useful to Him.

- **Two Courses of Action Suggested by the Expert Vineyard-Keeper:**
 - **Dig around the tree** to remove anything causing the problem of no fruit. All infestation must be removed and destroyed. The roots need good soil.
 - The love of sin, deep in our hearts, affects our growth and hinders Christian fruit. Only Christ can remove this sin when we repent and trust in Him alone.
 - **Fertilise the tree** to make it strong and healthy – bringing vigorous growth.
 - Ours souls are blessed by daily Bible reading and regular teaching on Sunday
- **But If This Action Fails After One More Year Then Cut It Down!**
 - God’s longsuffering will end one day. He cannot overlook our sin forever.
It is urgent! We must come to Christ **NOW** - seeking forgiveness so that we can live to serve our Saviour and Lord, bringing forth ‘fruit’ of good works.

Paul wrote, “For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”
2 Corinthians 6v2.