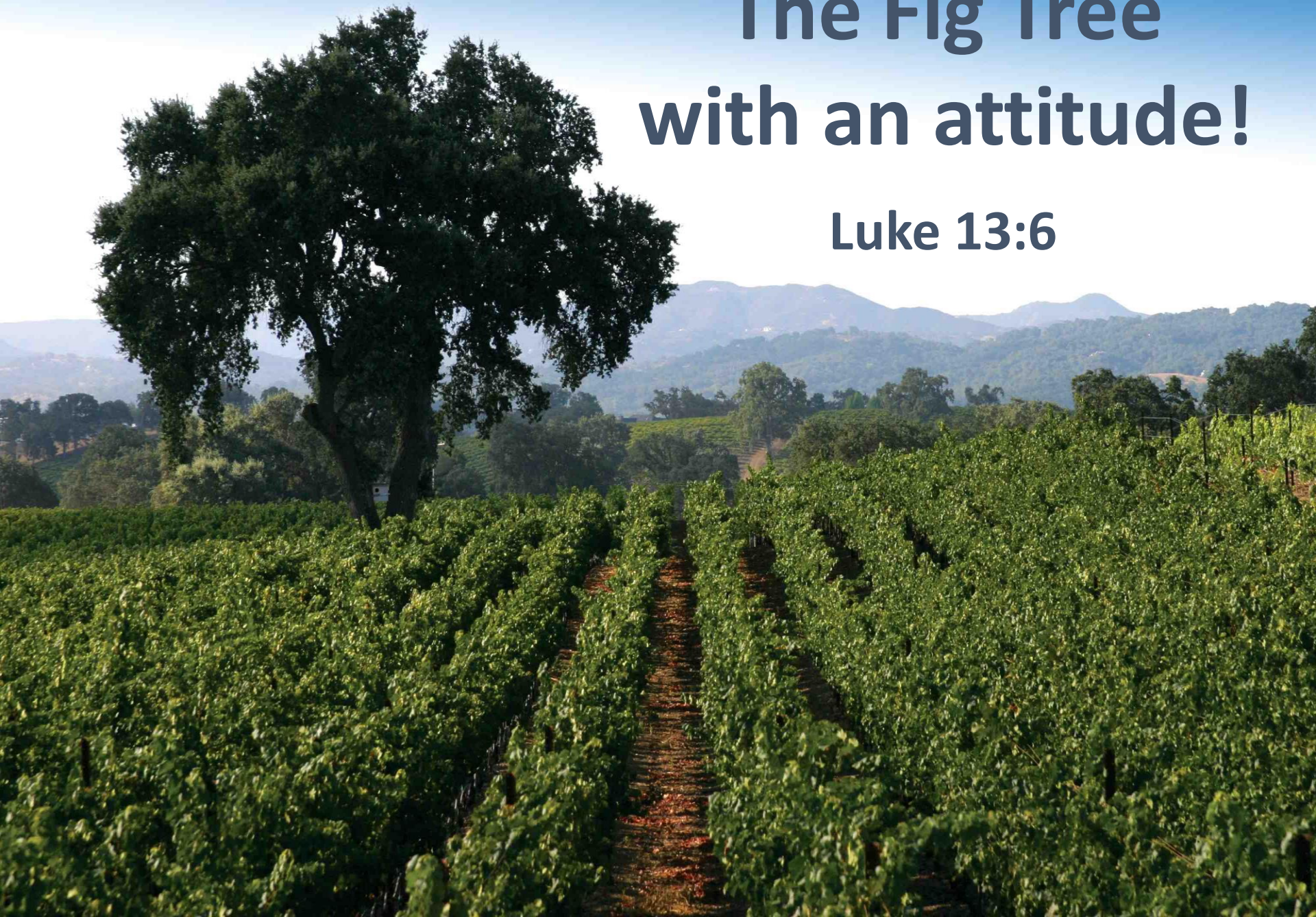


The Fig Tree with an attitude!

Luke 13:6



Luke 13: ¹ There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things?

³ I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**

⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but **unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**"

⁶ 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.**

⁷ 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?' ⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig around** it and **fertilize it.** ⁹ And if it bears **fruit, well.** But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

Fig Tree with an attitude!

We're going to bring this tree to life – teach us three spiritual lessons

Judges 9: ¹⁰ "Then the **trees said** to the fig tree, 'You come *and* reign over us!' ¹¹ But the **fig tree said** to them, 'Should I cease my sweetness and my good fruit, And go to sway over trees?'

Figs were important in those days:

- Snack, meal – dried saved for winter or baked into cakes
- These cakes were gift of honour to important people
- Excellent for shade – place of meeting - sit under fig tree
- Often seeing as living in peace with God's blessing – Nathaniel
- The tree was seen symbolic to prosperity and wealth

1 Kings 4: ²⁵ And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, each man under his vine **and his fig tree**, from Dan as far as Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.

Three spiritual lessons

1. Sometimes find ourselves in a place where we don't want to be:

⁶ He also spoke this parable: "A certain *man* had a **fig tree** planted in his **vineyard**

1 John 4:⁴ **You are of God**, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

⁵ **They are of the world**. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them.

⁶ We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

Three spiritual lessons

1. Sometimes find ourselves in a place where we don't want to be – V6
2. No matter where we are God has a purpose in that situation – V6

"A certain *man* had a **fig tree** planted in his **vineyard**, and he came seeking **fruit** on it and **found none**.

Proverbs 27:¹⁸ Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit; So he who waits on his master will be honoured

James 3:¹² Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.

John 15:¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you **and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit**, and *that* your **fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!
You say: "What Fruit?"

A. Fruit of repentance!

Luke 3:⁸ Therefore bear **fruits worthy of repentance**,

¹⁰ So the people asked him, saying, "**What shall we do then?**"

¹¹ He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." (**Selfishness**)

¹² Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³ And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you." (**Greed – Honesty**)

¹⁴ Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages." (**Meekness, Kindness and Contentment**)

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!

You say: “What Fruit?”

A. Fruit of repentance!

B. Fruit of Righteousness

Philippians 1:⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the **fruits of righteousness** which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Romans 6:²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.

Proverbs 11:³⁰ The **fruit of the righteous** *is a* tree of life, And he who wins souls *is* wise.

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!

You say: “What Fruit?”

- A. Fruit of repentance!
- B. Fruit of Righteousness
- C. Fruit of saved souls

John 4:³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ³⁶ And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers **fruit for eternal life**, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

Romans 1:¹³ Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some **fruit among you** also, just as among the other Gentiles.

Colossians 1:⁶ the gospel, which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and **is bringing forth fruit**, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a **faithful minister of Christ** on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!

You say: “What Fruit?”

- A. Fruit of Repentance!
- B. Fruit of Righteousness
- C. Fruit of Saved Souls
- D. Fruit of Praise and Worship

Hebrews 13:¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God, that is, the **fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name.

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!

You say: “What Fruit?”

- A. Fruit of Repentance!
- B. Fruit of Righteousness
- C. Fruit of Saved Souls
- D. Fruit of Praise and Worship
- E. **Fruit of Giving – Material things**

Romans 15:²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution (koinoinia)** for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in **material things (sarkikos)**. ²⁸ Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them **this fruit**, I shall go by way of you to Spain. (Refer to 2 Cor 9 in giving)

Koinoinia – Fellowship

Sarkikos – things pertaining to the flesh – food, clothes, money

Our purpose is to bear fruit no matter where we are!
You say: “What Fruit?”

- A. Fruit of Repentance!
- B. Fruit of Righteousness
- C. Fruit of Saved Souls
- D. Fruit of Praise and Worship
- E. Fruit of Giving
- F. Fruit of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:²² **But the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

How do you operate in the fruit of the Spirit?

Ephesians 5:⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the **fruit of the Spirit is** in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Three spiritual lessons

1. Sometimes find ourselves in a place where we don't want to be
2. No matter where we are – God has a purpose in that situation
3. God will allow correction where there is no Fruit

⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig around** it and **fertilize** it. ⁹ And if it bears **fruit, well**. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

Hebrews 12:¹¹ Now **no chastening seems to be joyful** for the present, but painful; nevertheless, **afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness** to those who have been trained by it.

Two actions here!

⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig around** it and **fertilize** *it*. ⁹ And if it bears **fruit, well**. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

- Dig around – Painful process (Rocks – Isaiah 5:2)
 - Hardened heart
 - Un-forgiveness - bitterness
- Fertilize it – Stinky situation
 - Shameful things come to light
 - **Mark 4:**²² For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. ²³ If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."
 - **1 Corinthians 4:**⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both **bring to light the hidden things of darkness** and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Warning

Isaiah 5:¹ Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill.
² He **dug it up and cleared out its stones**, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He **expected it to bring forth good grapes**, But it brought forth wild grapes.
³ "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.
⁴ What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?
⁵ And now, please **let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard**: I will **take away its hedge**, and **it shall be burned**; *And* **break down its wall**, and it shall **be trampled down**.
⁶ I will lay it waste; It shall not be pruned or dug, But there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds That they rain no rain on it."

I want God's way to be my way
As I journey here below
For there is no other highway
That a child of God should go
Though the road be steep and rough
If He leads me that's enough
I want god's way to be my way every day

I want Jesus, only Jesus
Every day of every year
He's the light in every darkness
Every burden He will share
Though the road be steep and rough
If He leads me that's enough
I want god's way to be my way every day

Come to Jesus, yes to Jesus
Oh my friend don't turn away
From the cross on Calvary's mountain
From His voice, oh come today
Though the road be steep and rough
If He leads me that's enough
I want god's way to be my way every day