

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 13:6-9](#).
- B. Commentators tend to show the relationship of this parable and the fate of the Jewish nation. This is true, but is lacking on a modern day application.
- C. This morning I want to make a modern day application of this little story to show that:
 - 1. Fruitless is useless.
 - 2. Wasted space is wasted grace.
 - 3. No production means destruction.

I. FRUITLESS IS USELESS.

- A. Jesus wants the tree to bear fruit because that is what it is supposed to do. Some trees give beauty, others shade, but a fig tree is to bear fruit.
- B. There are four distinct passages in the NT which tell of our need to be people who bear fruit:
 - 1. A benevolent life (Titus 3:14).
 - 2. A maturing life (2Pet. 1:5-11).
 - 3. A spiritual life (Gal. 5:22,23).
 - 4. An evangelistic life (Jn. 15:1-6,16).
- C. To be fruitful in the kingdom all of these need to be done. I do not read in any of these passages that only certain ones bear certain fruit to the exclusion of the others.

II. WASTED SPACE IS WASTED GRACE.

- A. Jesus said (in affect) the fig tree was not doing what it was suppose to in bearing fruit and He had been patient with the tree.
- B. Jesus is patient with us also:
 - 1. How many times have we heard the gospel plan of salvation and refused to obey it?
 - 2. Does our inactivity cause others to be less active?
 - 3. Maybe we need to do what one preacher said, "push, pull or get out of the way!",
 - 4. May we never be guilty of only having a form of godliness and always learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth (2Tim. 3:5).
 - 5. How long has God been waiting for us to bear fruit?
- C. Xianity is more than just an intellectual exercise. It is more than just being baptized and studying your Bible until Jesus comes. Xianity is fruit bearing!

III. NO PRODUCTION MEANS DESTRUCTION.

- A. Not only do we see passages telling us about bearing fruit, but there are passages that tell us of the consequences of not bearing fruit.
- B. According to the four we looked at:
 - 1. Benevolence according to Titus 3:14; see Mt. 25:31-46.
 - 2. Maturity according to 2Peter 1:5-11; see 2Pet. 2:20-22.
 - 3. Spirituality according to Galatians 5:22,23; see Gal. 5:19-21.
 - 4. Evangelism according to John 15:1-4,16; see Jn. 15:6; Lk. 13:9.
- C. God's long-suffering (His patience) will someday end (2Pet. 3:9).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Many of us like to have check lists to help us get things done. Chances are if we write it down and refer back to it we can get many things done.
- B. Here is a simple fruit bearing check list. Everyday bear fruit in:

1. Benevolence.
 2. Maturity (Bible teaching).
 3. Spirituality.
 4. Evangelism.
- C. May we assist you in your desire to bear fruit for God.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.