

PULPIT COMPANION

THE TIME
IS NOW

LUKE 13:1-9

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09:45 AM

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In this powerful message, we're challenged to examine the true nature of our faith and its fruits.

The parable of the fig tree from Luke 13 serves as a stark reminder that our time is limited and God expects us to bear spiritual fruit. We're urged to consider: Are we merely taking up space in God's vineyard, or are we truly growing and producing the fruits of repentance and faith? The gardener's plea for one more year symbolizes God's patience and grace, but also emphasizes the urgency of our response.

This story parallels our own spiritual journeys, where God continually cultivates and nurtures us, expecting growth and transformation. It's a call to action – to stop making excuses and start living purposefully for God.

As we reflect on this, we're encouraged to ask ourselves: What fruit are we bearing? Are we allowing God to 'dig around' and 'fertilize' the soil of our hearts? The time is now to embrace God's transformative work in our lives and become the fruitful believers we're meant to be.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Luke 13:1-9
- Matthew 6:12
- Jeremiah 26:12
- Romans 9:32-33
- Leviticus 19:23-24





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: The Urgency of Spiritual Fruitfulness

Reading: Luke 13:6-9

Devotional: Jesus' parable of the fig tree reminds us that God expects His people to bear spiritual fruit. Just as the gardener pleaded for one more year to cultivate the barren tree, God extends His grace to us, providing opportunities for growth and transformation. However, this grace has a purpose - it's meant to lead us to repentance and fruitfulness.

Today, reflect on your own spiritual life. Are you merely taking up space, or are you actively growing in faith and producing fruit for God's kingdom? Consider what areas of your life need "fertilizing" or "pruning" to become more fruitful. Remember, the time is now to respond to God's grace and bear fruit that glorifies Him.

Day 2: Embracing Divine Disturbance

Reading: Matthew 10:34-39

Devotional: Jesus often challenged the status quo, disturbing comfortable routines and confronting complacency. His words and actions were not always soothing, but rather like a sword, separating truth from falsehood. Today's reading reminds us that following Christ may disrupt our lives and relationships. It's easy to settle into spiritual stagnation, wrapping ourselves in the blanket of familiar dysfunction. But God calls us to a higher standard.

Reflect on areas where you might be resisting God's call to change. Are there comfortable sins or patterns you're reluctant to address? Ask God for the courage to embrace His divine disturbance in your life, knowing that His goal is your spiritual growth and ultimate good.





Day 3: The Power of God's Presence

Reading: Psalm 16:11

Devotional: The sermon emphasized that in God's presence, we find fullness of joy and eternal pleasures. This psalm beautifully expresses the same truth. God's presence is not just a comforting idea, but a transformative reality. In His presence, we find peace, love, healing, and liberty.

Today, focus on cultivating an awareness of God's presence in your daily life. How might your perspective shift if you consciously acknowledged God's presence in every situation? Practice "lingering" in His presence through prayer, worship, or silent meditation. Ask God to make His presence more real to you, and to shape you more into His likeness as you dwell with Him.

Day 4: Responding to God's Mercy

Reading: Romans 2:4-5

Devotional: God's patience and kindness are meant to lead us to repentance. Like the gardener in Jesus' parable who pleaded for one more year, God often extends mercy to us, giving us time to turn back to Him. However, we must not take this mercy for granted. The sermon warned that "God's patience is an open door, but you have to walk through it yourself."

Today, reflect on God's mercy in your own life. How has He been patient with you? Are there areas where you've been resistant to His call to repentance? Take time to respond to His kindness with genuine repentance and a renewed commitment to follow Him wholeheartedly.





Day 5: Bearing Fruit That Lasts

Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional: Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate our need to abide in Him to bear lasting fruit. This echoes the fig tree parable, emphasizing that fruitfulness comes from a vital connection to the source of life. God is not interested in mere religious activity or temporary changes; He desires lasting, transformative fruit in our lives.

Today, examine your connection to Christ. Are you abiding in Him through regular prayer, Scripture reading, and obedience? Remember that apart from Him, we can do nothing of eternal value. Ask God to deepen your relationship with Him and to produce His fruit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - in your life. Commit to staying connected to the Vine, knowing that this is the key to true and lasting fruitfulness.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE :

The Time is Now

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session with a prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His message and guide the discussion.

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus was crucified not for His miracles, but for speaking truth that challenged comfortable and complacent people.
2. God gives us time and opportunities to bear fruit, but His patience is not endless.
3. The clock is ticking for all of us to repent and live fruitful lives for God.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor said, "Jesus was crucified because he spoke truth in a world that preferred lies." How do you see this dynamic playing out in our world today? In your own life?
2. Reflect on the parable of the fig tree. How does this story challenge your understanding of God's patience and judgment?
3. The sermon mentioned that "God doesn't prune what he's given up on. He prunes what he sees purpose in." How does this perspective change the way you view challenges or difficulties in your life?
4. What does it mean to you personally to "bear fruit" for God? How can we discern if we're truly bearing fruit or just "taking up space"?
5. The pastor emphasized that "the time is now." In what areas of your life do you feel God calling you to act or change without delay?
6. How can we balance the urgency of "the time is now" with the patience and grace God shows us?





Practical Applications:

1. Self-Reflection: Take time this week to honestly assess your spiritual life. Are you bearing fruit? If not, what's holding you back?
2. Accountability: Partner with someone in the group to encourage each other in pursuing a specific area of spiritual growth or service.
3. Act on Conviction: If you felt convicted about something during the sermon, make a concrete plan to address it this week.
4. Share Your Story: Practice telling your testimony or a story of God's work in your life to someone who doesn't know Christ.
5. Pruning Exercise: Identify one area in your life that God might be "pruning." How can you cooperate with this process to promote growth?

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying for each other, asking God for the courage to act on His calling and the strength to bear fruit for His kingdom.

