

The State of the Church

Message: 2009



“ Then He told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down!’”

(Luke 13:6-9, p. 738)

About Fig Trees...

The fig tree in this parable represents every individual believer. A fig tree has an enormous root structure which takes up much space. If a fig tree does not produce fruit within the first three years, it likely will never produce. A fig tree bears fruit before the leaves. This leafy tree in Jesus’ parable had the “appearance” of fruit, but in actuality, no fruit. Figs are not visible from a distance - it requires an up-close examination - which is exactly what the Father does with us.

Verse 6 This fig tree occupied an especially favored position, having every advantage to produce fruit ...

Verse 7 Nothing which only takes out can survive; lack of fruitfulness invites spiritual deterioration...

“...Why should it use up the soil?”

Verse 8 Our God is the God of the second chance, patiently investing in people...

Verse 9 This parable of Jesus also makes clear that there is a final chance...

The Father desires both faithfulness and fruitfulness!

Cultivate a personal spiritual awakening of epic proportion in my life...