

The Fruitless Tree And Manure - Luke 13:1-9

Intro. - Luke 13:6-9

A. Major Themes of the Parables:

1. Surprising Arrival and Nature of God's Kingdom
2. The Upside-down value system of the Kingdom
3. Crisis Parable

B. Parables teach us about the Kingdom of God. Questions to ask Jesus about the parable:

1. What am I to learn about God and his Kingdom?
2. What am I to learn about being a disciple in God's Kingdom?
3. What am I to know about those outside of the Kingdom?

C. Context: What is going on in the narrative of the story?

I. **“Cut It Down”** – Passing Judgement (Luke 13:6-7)

- Luke 12:57-13:5; 9:52-55

Question: Is there anyone you feel like they are “using up the ground” in your life, or someone upon whom you have passed judgment?

II. **“Sir, Let It Alone”** – Cultivating Repentance (Luke 13:8-9)

- Luke 3:7-10 (esp. v. 8)
- **Manure** is the material of the Kingdom that produces life in fruitless people

1. **Cultivate Kindness**

- Luke 13:15-16, Romans 2:4

Question: How could you cultivate some kindness into someone's life?

2. **Cultivate Forgiveness and Patience**

- Luke 11:4, 2 Peter 3:9
- In this parable the Greek word “*aphes*” is translated “Let it alone.” The same word in other contexts also means “Forgive them”

Question: Ask the Lord, “Who needs my forgiveness and patience right now? What would it look like for me to be a gardener like you who works some manure into the hard soil of their life”

III. **“Crucify Him!”... “Father, Forgive Them!”**

- Luke 23:21 (13:7), 32-34 (13:8)
- Luke 23:39-43

- Colossians 3:12-15

Prayer: Repent of your own trespasses and then thank the Lord for all the ways he has worked his kindness, forgiveness, and patience into your life!”

Go and spread some manure in the name of the Lord Jesus!