

Luke 13:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

Analysis

Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree: 'He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none' (ἔλεγεν δὲ ταύτην τὴν παραβολήν· Συκῆν εἶχέν τις πεφυτευμένην ἐν τῷ ἀμπελῶνι αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἥλθεν ζητῶν καρπὸν ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ οὐχ εὗρεν). The fig tree represents Israel, planted in God's vineyard (cf. Isaiah 5:1-7), expected to produce fruit. The owner 'sought fruit' (ζητῶν καρπὸν) but 'found none' (οὐχ εὗρεν)—God's legitimate expectation met with barrenness. This parable warns of coming judgment while offering brief opportunity for repentance. The vinekeeper's intercession (v.8-9) represents Christ's advocacy, providing grace period before judgment.

Historical Context

Fig trees normally bear fruit within three years, making the three-year search (v.7) reasonable grounds for cutting it down. In first-century Palestine, unproductive trees consumed valuable resources (water, soil nutrients, space). Jesus spoke this parable shortly before His final journey to Jerusalem, warning that Israel's rejection of Messiah would result in judgment—fulfilled in AD 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem. The parable's urgency matches John the Baptist's warning: 'even now the axe is laid unto the root of the trees' (Luke 3:9).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What kind of spiritual fruit does God legitimately expect from those who have received His grace?
2. How should the temporary nature of God's patience motivate urgent repentance and fruitfulness?

Interlinear Text

Ἐλεγεν δὲ ταύτην τὴν παραβολήν· Συκῆν εἶχέν τις
He spoke also G3778 G3588 parable G3850 a fig tree G4808 man had G2192 A certain G5100
G3004 G1161 G1722 G290 G846 G5452 G2532 G2064

ἐν τῷ ἀμπελῶνι αὐτοῦ πεφυτευμένην καὶ ἤλθεν
in G3588 vineyard G290 planted G5452 and G2532 he came G2064

καρπὸν ζητῶν ἐν αὐτῇ καὶ οὐχ εὗρεν
fruit and sought in G846 and none G3756 found G2147

G2590 G2212 G1722 G2532 G3756 G2147

Additional Cross-References

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Galatians 5:22 (Parallel theme): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Jeremiah 2:21 (Parallel theme): Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

Philippians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

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