

Trees 9

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- A fruit bearing tree is the result of good conditions and much patience. In order to bear fruit, a tree must have all that it needs. *Phil. 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
- All trees are not the same. Some trees require extra attention when approaching the fruit bearing phase, while others may grow faster with less care. *Col. 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*
- The husbandman cannot rush to cut a tree down just because there is an initial absence of fruit. There may be something missing that can be corrected to salvage the tree. *James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*



- We are all capable of bearing fruit. However, some of us require more time to cultivate because of where we have been planted and what we have received. *James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*
- Rushing to judgment of others is dangerous because we all have experienced fruitless seasons. We have no right to demand fruit of others just because we are in a better season. *Matt. 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?*
- The same patience that it took to bring us into our fruitful season must be extended to others in their time of barrenness. The only reason we have fruit is because patience was granted to us. *Eph. 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*



- As a fellowship of believers, we are merely branches, not the husbandman. We are not the final judge of whether or not a tree should be cut down. *John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*
- We should extend mercy to those that abide in the vine with us. *Matt. 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*
- Because none of us can bear fruit of ourselves without abiding in the vine, we must believe and pray for others that are fruitless. We should always be mindful of our own fruitless beginnings. *John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*



SUMMARY

Because tree growing is such a long and lengthy process, many times we forget the stages and seasons that we endured to become fruitful. It's very easy to forget the rough times, broke times, hardheadedness, and foolish errors that occurred in our past. Our desire to show fruit and be judged for who we are now versus who we once were can make us pompous and prideful. A prideful person hides the process that they endured just to be viewed a certain way in front of others. This causes them to judge others without considering who they were or what they are enduring. They love to appear to have it all together without acknowledging that they have erred and fallen into temptation. This behavior causes some to walk around with axes and act as vinedressers.

We are not vinedressers but we are all branches. Although we are to inspect the fruit of others so that we can discern their needs, we can never decide when a tree should be cut down! We must always extend mercy, grace, and hope to those that are laboring together with us so that we can encourage fruit bearing and not tree burning! If it had not been for the mercy of God, our situations would be totally different. Some of our decisions should have gotten our tree burned to the ground, but God extended mercy and we are now able to correct our wrongs and do better. Just because a tree is fruitless now does not give us the right to destroy it or even decide that it is incapable of bearing fruit. We must pray for a time of grace, admonish, and minister to it, so it will have a better chance of bearing fruit.

Luke 13:6 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.

Luke 13:7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

Luke 13:8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

Luke 13:9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.