

(15) Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)

1. The admonition to repent for perish (Lk. 13:1-5) is illustrated with this parable (Lk. 13:6-9).
2. Fig trees (συκῆ sukē ^{#4808}_{16x}) will be used as illustrations at later points of Jesus' ministry as the crucifixion draws nearer (Mt. 21:19-21; 24:32; Mk 11:13,20; 13:28; Lk. 21:29).
3. The parable features a conversation between a man and a gardener.
 - a. The man had been waiting three years for his fig tree to produce figs.
 - b. Three years was sufficient time for fig production.
 - c. The gardener begs for just one more year and promises diligent cultivation.
4. The imminency of God's wrath is such that gardeners ought to do their work with the utmost diligence (see also Lk. 3:9 at the beginning of Jesus' ministry).
 - a. Requesting mercy is "who knows?" faith-prayer (2nd Sam. 12:22; Est. 4:14; Joel 2:13; Jon. 3:9-10).
 - b. This parable is consistent with Old Testament messages (Ps. 80:8-19; Isa. 5:1-7).
 - c. This metaphor is also consistent with Church application (1st Cor. 3:6-9).