

Learn the Parable of the Fig Tree

Keli – I am thankful for that song we sang. It reminds me of 1978, a teaching that we had. It was one of the first things that impressed something upon me. It was a revelation, maybe the first one I ever had. I used to try to avoid going to Barton to the Christian youth meetings. Every time I would go there (before I came to the Community) they would always call on me. I never had anything. Then after this teaching, I was so excited to go. The whole time, my brother and I talked about what we heard. I was excited because it was the first time I could talk about something I had revelation of. Revelation is something that is compressed in your heart. It just comes out of you. It is not forced. He is the vine, and if we want to bear fruit, we have to be the branches. It has everything to do with having His Law written in our hearts. It is not just bearing fruit, but bearing fruit to Him, as Rom 7:4 says. We have hope to do it. We didn't have hope before.

What happens to a branch if it is connected to the vine? He is the vine, and you are the sprouts, which is what it says in the Greek. What happens to one of those sprouts or shoots that doesn't have grapes on it?

Chets Barur – It is pruned.

And then what if it is doesn't bear fruit?

Keli – It is cut off.

And if it bears fruit, what happens? It is pruned so that it bears more fruit. What happens to a tree that is bearing fruit, if it is not pruned? It doesn't bear much fruit.

Why? What causes that? Is the energy wasted on all of those other unfruitful branches?

ha-êmeq – The branches get really long and heavy with the fruit and they can break off. If they prune it back, the limb gets thicker and can bear more fruit.

What does bearing fruit give evidence of? What does a tree prove by bearing fruit? It is being watered, nurtured, cultivated, as a disciple is supposed to be. If you bear much fruit, you prove to be my disciple. What does it mean if you don't bear much fruit? Are you not being disciplined? Not being pruned?

Some translations say, “prove to be My disciples” and others say, “be My disciples.” Which one is right? So, how much fruit are we supposed to bear to prove that we are His disciples? Mt 13 says a person is supposed to bear thirty, sixty, or a hundred fold. Thirty is pretty good, and sixty or a hundred is a bumper crop. One hundred times is a lot, isn’t it? A hundred times what is sown. What does that mean?

Does anyone know how you measure that? Are there any farmers here?

Chets Barur – If a farmer puts one grain in the ground and it bears thirty grains on the stalk, it is thirty-fold increase.

You take the hundred fold and plant it, and you have ten thousand times as many as before.

ha-êmeq – It reminds me of when you asked, “How do you tell a tree?” Some people said, by the leaves, but that is not right. You can’t tell what kind of tree it is until it bears fruit, which proves it. You can’t tell whether someone is a disciple until he bears the fruit. At first, I could hardly see the avocados, but then, when my eyes got used to their color, I saw there were avocados everywhere. If there had been a fig under there, I would have known they weren’t avocados. People are watching us all the time. They are trying to see what kind of fruit we will bear. By our Father’s grace, they will know who we are.

I was asking someone the other day what kind of tree it was. And then we saw little figs coming forth. That is amazing, isn’t it, when you see the fig tree and it puts forth leaves?

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near — at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. (Mt 24:32-34)

When you see the leaves of the fig tree you know summer is near, then the fruit comes and you know that the harvest is near. All these things are going to happen in the lifetime of that tree, in its season of bearing fruit. That generation that sees the leaves won’t pass away until it sees all these things. They won’t all die. It is amazing, isn’t it?

We saw the fig tree and I knew summer was coming. When you see fruit coming forth from a people, you know something is going to happen.

Chets Barur – One of the goals of pruning is to make the fruit accessible. That is why the persimmon trees were pruned the way they were. Our Father wants to cut away the lofty things in our lives that no one can reach.

It makes the harvest quicker, doesn't it? It produces better fruit, for all the energy is going into the fruit-bearing branches. Just think of how many sprouts or branches had to be cut off in the last thirty years. Those who weren't sprouting or bearing fruit had to be cut off.

Natan – I am thankful to hear that if we are not bearing fruit, we are draining others that want to bear fruit. We are draining their lives. One time I was pruning a tree and saw a sucker branch right below one with many blossoms that would bear fruit. There were two branches, but just one needed to be there. There is no middle ground. We are either bearing fruit, or we are draining others. I want to be one who abides in the vine and bears fruit.

Joshua – I am thankful for what we have heard tonight, how we have to be stewards of the life our Father has given us. I really want to appreciate that, and I want that life to bear fruit in us. I am thankful to be in a place where the things in us that would hinder us from bearing fruit can be dealt with. I am thankful that our Father is getting us ready for what lies ahead. I am thankful to be part of that tree and I really want to learn to overcome. I want to take a stand that I can overcome and bear fruit, sharing the life that I receive.

Yochanan – I was thankful when it said that, "No branch can bear fruit by itself." I liked that, because it has to be connected to the vine. Our Father desires so much that we would be connected to Him and bear abundant fruit. In that place, you can see who is connected to Him. Each member is so important, but not one of us can do anything by ourselves.

He is the vine. We have to be where He is. If anyone follows Me, he must serve Me where I am. Whoever serves Me there, where I am, then My Father will honor him. He is receiving the sap.