

“ Are We Producing Fruit ? ”

Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and have not found any, Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

‘ Sir’ , the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year and I will dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ” (Luke 13:6-9)

We hear of the ‘patience of Job’ but here we are reminded of the ‘patience of Jesus’. Jesus works around the roots, prodding and pushing tenderly so as not to do damage. Jesus provides the ‘light’ and the ‘living water’ to nurture us. Jesus continues his desire to help us grow properly. Jesus waits for us to produce ‘much good fruit’. Not just ‘any fruit’ or ‘some fruit’, but the ‘right fruit’, ‘real fruit’ according to his desire for us.

In John 15, Jesus said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear ‘much fruit’; apart from me you can do nothing. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, **ask whatever you wish**, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that ‘you bear much fruit’, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”*

Early in John 15, Jesus speaks about branches that produce ‘no fruit’, then branches that produce ‘fruit’, then branches that produce ‘more fruit’, but he is not satisfied until he comes to branches that produce ‘much fruit’ before he says, *“**ask whatever you wish**”!*

We must be deeply rooted in Jesus, so that we can bear much fruit! Too many times in our prayer life, we are doing a lot of asking, but we are not seeing any fruit. Maybe Jesus is still working around those roots and fertilizing, but we are not there yet. Maybe we are sidetracked by too much busyness and hoping that we can do it without His help? Maybe there is something He wants us to see or learn before we will be able to produce anything at all!

Take time to reflect on what we are ‘rooted to’ so we can **‘bear much fruit for the kingdom of God and bring glory to the Father’** as Jesus asked us to do.