

The Gardener

(Luke 13:6-9)

- Introduction:
1. Jesus appears to people in many ways.
 - a. To some, he is a Shepherd.
 - b. To some, he is a Deliverer.
 - c. To others, he is the Captain of God's army.
 2. In this lesson, let's think of Jesus in a way that maybe we seldom have.
 3. Upon his resurrection, Mary Magdalene mistook Jesus for a gardener (John 20:14-16).
 4. Again, in Luke 13:6-9, Jesus is portrayed as a gardener in the parable of the barren fig tree.
 5. Note these three lessons from this parable.

I. There is an Expectation

- A. (Luke 13:6-7).
- B. God expects us to bear fruit.
- C. Are we bearing fruit, or are we disappointing God?
- D. Our relationship to God is more than just about "salvation." It's also about "discipleship."

II. There is Patience

- A. (Luke 13:8-9).
- B. Jesus is working on our behalf.
- C. He hasn't given up.
- D. He appeals for more time but is resigned to the knowledge that there is an end to the Father's patience.

III. There is Accountability

- A. (Luke 13:9).
- B. It is not beyond the owner of the vineyard to cut the tree down.
- C. There is an end or limit to God's patience.

- Conclusion:
1. Aren't you thankful that we have a "Gardener" who shows patience and works with us to bring us to maturity?
 2. Also, consider how sad it will someday for Jesus to finally acknowledge nothing more can be done.
 3. Maybe today, Jesus is working in your life, and is desperately seeking a sign of growth.
 4. Friends, the clock is ticking, and the day of accountability will be upon us.
 5. What will the Lord find in your life?