Luke 13:6-9 **November 1, 2026**

The Barren Fig Tree

Throughout the Bible, God's people are likened to a vine, a vineyard, or a fig tree planted in a vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7; Jer. 24:1-10; Hosea 9:10,16; Micah 4:4). In all of these cases, we are planted and cared for by God himself so that we can bear fruit. But sadly, throughout the history of God's people, we often fail to bear the fruit God seeks. In this parable, Jesus teaches us that…

1. He is seeking fruit
   a. Not simply the absence of blatant evil
   b. Not simply the healthy potential to be fruitful
   c. He is looking for fruit (Matthew 3:8; Gal. 5:16-24)

2. Fruitlessness will bring about judgment
   a. Such trees will be removed
   b. Removal will be permanent - the ground will be used by something else

3. He is patient
   a. Note: the presence of suffering is not proof of God's displeasure; and the absence of suffering is not proof of his approval
   b. Jesus gives us all the time and attention we need to live well for him (2 Peter 1:3)

Application:

1. Are you bearing fruit for Jesus?

2. How is God calling you to bear fruit for him today?

3. Will you give yourself to the Lord to be fruitful for him?