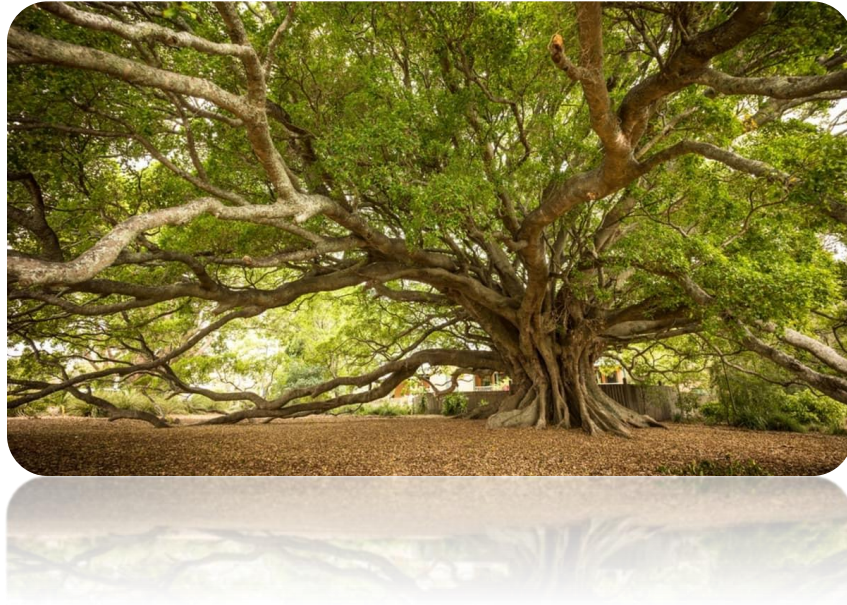


Where is Your Fig Tree?



John 1:47-48

*When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him,
"Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."
"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered,
"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree
before Philip called you."*

What does it mean that he was under the fig tree? In the Rabbinic tradition, it means a secret place. It means meditating on the word of God and praying.

The trunk of the tree grows about 15 feet high, and the branches spread 25 feet. There were usually fig trees in front of a Palestinian Jewish house. They used the shade for their meditation and prayer. My former parsonage had a fig tree next to the window. The tree was different from other trees. The trunks and branches grow as they wish. If we leave it as it is, it becomes a tree where you can hide yourself fully under the tree.

All human beings have a thing to do with God. Without communion with God, you cannot fulfill your most beautiful destiny because God created you to receive God's power and wisdom; for the most amazing version of you! In everyday life, we usually do not have time in the middle of daily flow. We have so many things to do, and one day is not always enough. And the flow of life chases us into a direction we didn't intend. Life is not at all under your control.

Sometimes, you lose the sense of direction you are going. You are confused, and you suffer. So, you need alertness during your daily life. Karl Jung said, "*busy-ness* itself is an evil and a disaster." A Korean theologian said the same thing and explained why. Korean people use old Chinese picture language mixed with our original language. In that picture language, the word, Busy-ness, Mang is composed of two pictures: heart and death. It means, if you are busy, your heart dies. Why does your heart die when you are busy? Because people forget the true meaning of life, and people forget the source of life, God. Eventually, it leads you to ultimate death.

On the other hand, the antinomy of Busy-ness is rest, Hiu. The picture language of rest is composed of a tree and a person. As you see, rest means that a person observes one's own heart under the tree. It is very interesting that the tree of the letter Hiu is symbolically connected to Nathanael's fig tree!

Make time intentionally, set up an alarm clock, and find a place. Take a deep breath and receive fresh air from eternity; let God nourish you with God's fresh grace. Ask God for wisdom and direction for your daily life. It will satisfy hunger for inner peace! It will satisfy hunger for love and comfort.

Where is your fig tree to rest and care for your soul?

Grace and joy – Pastor Hae-Jeong