"Sir, let it alone this year also"



Luke 13:8

"A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down." Luke 13:6-9

The goodness of the Vinedresser

- Comes seeking
- 2. Diagnoses the problem
- 3. Designs a plan
- 4. Gives it another year



1. Comes Seeking (1)

God visits us in many ways and for many reasons; one of them is to check on our fruits and remind us of what we are here to do (the story of a beggar and a business man)



1. Comes Seeking (2)

 The tree is not there only to live and feed its branches, it is to give and nourish others with its fruits



 Welcome His examination and be willing to know so corrections can be made in time

2. Diagnoses the Problem (2)

- Two issues are related to the fig tree:
 - 1. The fake cover of our sins:

"they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings"

Genesis 3:7



2. Diagnoses the Problem (2)

Two issues are related to the fig

tree: (cont.)

2. The sin of hypocrisy:

"He came to it and found

nothing on it but leaves"

Matthew 21:19



2. Diagnoses the Problem (3)

It is the tendency to be satisfied with what is fake, outward, halfhearted, or superficial or what others think of us that hinders us from bearing fruits, and, thus, we keep the ground idle.



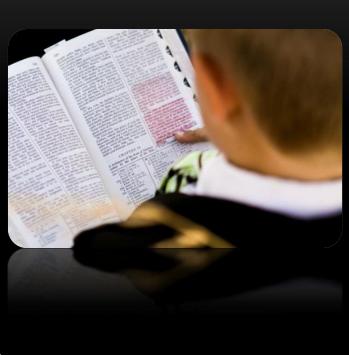
3. Designs a plan (1)

- Digs around it: To cleanse and purge out what is alien
 - The distractions that steal our purpose (the story of the hermit living on the mountain)
 - Sometimes the fire of tribulation does the best work



3. Designs a plan (2)

- Fertilizes it: To feed and nourish
 - Substituting what is unbeneficial with the Word of God, the teachings of the Fathers, and the sweetness of the church sacraments and services



4. Gives it another year

To the Church of Thyatira:
"And I gave her time to repent"
Revelation 2:21

 The gift of another day to live to perfect our repentance and finish the work entrusted to us



Happy New Year

