

**“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

1. 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, half-hearted, 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⁾

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⁾

1. 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

