Harvester Christian Church

Life Groups | **PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY**

**WEEK 7 | Luke 13:1-35; 14:1-35 | The Cost of Discipleship**

Main Point

Jesus conveys both a sense of urgency and patience. He is teaching us when and where to apply each.

 Read Luke 13:6-9 and Leviticus 19:23-25

**How many years, based on the commands regarding fruit trees in Leviticus, had this man already waited to get fruit off of this fig tree?**

**What is the approach that Jesus is telling people to take in regards to seeking fruitfulness in the spiritual life?**

When we look at the parable of the fig in the context of Jewish life, we see that the man had actually been visiting this tree for 8 years without fruit, not simply 3. The vineyard keeper is telling the man to give it one more year. This is nearly a decade without fruit and yet he is encouraged to be patient.

 Read Luke 13:10-17

**In the previous parable Jesus is imploring for patience now, when He is moved by compassion is driven by a sense of urgency. What are some of the points of differentiation between the approach to this woman and to this fig tree?**

**What do you think this story tells us about how the followers of Jesus should respond to those in need?**

This story makes Jesus’ feelings about those in need and how we should respond to them very clear. He also calls the synagogue official a hypocrite for not responding urgently with compassion. Notice who Jesus says has kept the woman bound, Satan. It says that His opponents were humiliated by His compassionate treatment of the woman. They saw this woman as less than an ox or donkey.

 Read Luke 13:18-21

**Is the lesson of the mustard seed a lesson in patience or in urgency? How about the message of the leaven? What do you think these two parables say about the expanse of the Kingdom of heaven?**

Although a mustard seed does not technically grow into a tree, it has no bark, it does grow to a fairly large size. Mustard seeds can produce a plant that can be up to 25 high and over 30 feet in span. A mustard seed that is planted in a pot will not even be ready to be transplanted outside for at least 3 years. Imagine how long it would take a mustard seed to grow to 25 feet in height! Likewise, a peck of flour would have been equivalent to about 3 gallons dry measure. That is a total of 9 gallons of four. It would take a very long time to mix 3 pecks of flour to get leaven through the entire 9 gallons. Our approach to the realization of Kingdom of God in our lives and in the lives of others should be one of patience.

 Read Luke 13:22-35

**In verse 26 Jesus says “you will begin to say ‘We ate and drank with Your presence, and You taught in our streets’. Do you view this as a mark of urgency or patience? What is the response Jesus has for those who would say this? How does this influence your own personal interactions with Jesus and you personally getting to know Him?**

The call to get to know Jesus and His will is a call to slow, intentional exploration and to growing and increasing intimacy. Think about your approach to Jesus and if it is leading you in the direction of intentional movement towards intimacy or simple contentment with knowledge of Him.