

## THE STORY OF THE FIG TREE

Mike Howerton - Lead Pastor

*Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.' The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'" Luke 13:6-9 NLT*

## We were planted \_\_\_\_\_ ...

*Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it... Luke 13:6 NLT*

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22,23 NLT*

## ...and we are not working with

---

*Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.' Luke 13:7 NLT*

*Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? Romans 2:4 NLT*

## Our gardener is a

---

*"The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. Luke 13:8 NLT*

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9 NIV*

## There is \_\_\_\_\_ each of us will give

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. Romans 14:12 NLT

When someone has been given much, much will be required in return...  
Luke 12:48 NLT

## The fruit we are to focus on \_\_\_\_\_

So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Romans 14:10 NLT

## The way to produce fruit is to \_\_\_\_\_

You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:3-5 NLT

"Listen!" says Jesus. "I am coming soon! I will bring my rewards with me, to give to each one according to what he has done. Revelation 22:12 GNT

And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." Matthew 10:42 NLT