

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine***

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Cana (John 4:46-54)
2. Blindness (John 9:1-7)
3. Five (Matt.14:15-21)
4. Jairus's daughter (Matt. 9:23-25)
5. "Peace, be still" (Matt. 8:23-27)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Gary Tuttle
Announcements: Eddie Bowen
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson
Opening Prayer: Robert McCorkle
Scripture Reading: Harper Flores
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5
Song Leader: Todd McAdams
Table Talk: Arturo Orozco
Contribution: John Franks
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of Vine: Brad Smith
Helper: Lester Mabry
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Closing Prayer: Jacob McAdams

Sunday Afternoons

Jan 7 Nothing
Jan 14 3PM Bible Fundamentals Class
Jan 21 Nothing
Jan 28 3PM Men's Meeting
Classroom Quarter Change

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: John Franks



Standing Firm

"Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist
in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm"
Ephesians 6:13

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The Barren Fig Tree

"And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down'" (Luke 13:6-9).

Contained within this very short parable is a dire warning for Israel. The nation of Israel had been 'planted' by the Lord many years ago and He is looking for fruit but finds none. The nation had been established long enough to bear fruit but had not. They had rejected the teaching of God. God is ready to cut them down but Jesus extends another 'year' of grace so they might be taught.

We see then that the time of Christ was the last opportunity for the nation of Israel to repent and remember the Old Covenant established by God. True, Jesus was to bring in a New Covenant, but at that time, Israel remained under the Old Law. Jesus teaches them to obey the Law, not just in their traditions but in the true meaning of the Law. This was in part the reason for the giving of the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7.

Jesus understood that God's will would be done. Grace was extended for a period of time but if they would not "bear fruit" they would indeed be cut down.

In this short parable we can see a few truths we need to apply to our own life. The gospel seed has been planted (1 Corinthians 3:6) and we are to grow up to a mature plant. Matthew 13:31 gives the parable of the mustard seed which is the smallest of seeds, but when it is planted grows into a tree that the birds come and nest in. The mustard seed is compared to "the kingdom of heaven" and so must be understood to be the gospel. God expects the individual Christian to grow into a mature believer. Any mature tree will bear fruit and the parable under consideration implies that God expects that of each one of us.

In the parable of the vine and branches we see similar language as that implied in the parable of the barren fig tree. Jesus says *"as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in*

the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me" (John 15:4). And, "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples" (John 15:8). If we are not bearing fruit, God will be ready to cut us down! An initial obedience to the gospel is necessary but is not the end of our obedience to God. A lifetime of bearing fruit is what is expected.

God has extended His grace to us. He has given us till this moment in time to repent of our sin and turn to Him. "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). We do not know what God's patience will wear out and He will say, "cut it down." We must each look at our own lives and determine where it is we can grow and be certain we are bearing fruit.

We are nourished and fed by the word of God. We receive "training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16) in order that we might know how to please God. Will we fee on His word and grow thereby unto the bearing of fruit, or will we refuse and so be seen by God as a barren fig tree?

By Charles Willis

32,850 sermons later...

Years ago a reader of The British Weekly wrote this to the editor:

"Dear Sir: It seems ministers feel their sermons are very important and spend a great deal of time preparing them. I have been attending a church service quite regularly for the past 30 years and have probably heard 3,000 of them. To my consternation, I discovered I cannot remember a single sermon. I wonder if a minster's time might be more profitable spent on something else?"

For weeks a real storm of editorial responses ensued. The uproar was finally ended by this letter:

"Dear Sir: I have been married for 30 years. During that time I have eaten 32,850 meals - mostly of my wife's cooking. Suddenly I have discovered I cannot remember the menu of a single meal. And yet, I received nourishment from every single one of them. I have a distinct impression that without them, I would have starved to death a long time ago."

Know Your Bible

Miracles Of Jesus

1. Where was Jesus when he healed the son of an official from Capernaum?
2. What was the affliction of the man Jesus healed by sending him to the pool of Siloam?
3. How many loaves of bread were used to feed the 5,000?
4. What little girl did Jesus raise from the dead?
5. What did Jesus say to calm the storm on the sea of Galilee?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



Much Better

Hebrews 1:4 "having become as **much better than the angels**, as He has inherited a **more excellent name than they**"

Hebrews 11:40 "God had provided **something better for us**, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect"

Hebrews 9:23 "it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with **better sacrifices than these**."

Hebrews 12:24 "and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which **speaks better than the blood of Abel**."

Hebrews 7:19 "(for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of **a better hope**, through which we draw near to God."

Hebrews 7:22 "so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of **a better covenant**."

Hebrews 8:6 "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of **a better covenant**, which has been enacted on **better promises**."

Hebrews 10:34 "For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves **a better possession and a lasting one**."

Hebrews 11:16 "But as it is, they desire **a better country**, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them."

Hebrews 11:35 "Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain **a better resurrection**"