



Wisdom In Fruitfulness

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3)

Bulletin VCM-066

24 February 2013

God reveals in the Bible that He delights in and rewards fruitfulness but hates barrenness so that we can make informed decision and reap the consequences of our actions. The wise chooses fruitfulness and gets amply rewarded.

The parable of the barren fig tree (Luke 13:6-9) and the story of Jesus cursing a barren fig tree (Mark 11:12-21) teaches us that:

- 1) Fruitfulness is a fair 'rent' we pay for the tenancy and benefits we get in God's planet. Failure to pay the rents results in eviction and consequently homelessness.
- 2) Beauty (i.e. blossoming in Mark 11) is not God's ultimate purpose in creating and sustaining plants. As a plant with blossom without fruit is cursed to death, in the same way can a handsome or beautiful rich Christian without fruits - as s/he could be guilty of sins of omission or of the blood of those s/he failed to warn (James 4:7; Ezekiel 3:17-21).

The above is well illustrated in the parable about Israel in Isaiah 5:1-6 "Now will I sing to my well-beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: **2** And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. **3** And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard. **4** **What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?** wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? **5** And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: **6** And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned,

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).



nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it"

The parable of the ten talents (Luke 19:11-27) reveals key truths on wisdom of growth and productivity (synonymous with fruitfulness):

- 1) The master could have locked up his talents in a safe, but being growth minded, he took the risk of sharing them with his servants for purpose of investment and growth.
- 2) Every servant received a talent, and was required to **"Occupy till I come"** by investing the talent. No servant was exempted, but ordinary citizens were excluded as they did not identify with the master's interests.
- 3) The servants had freedom of choice on how to invest their talent including banking.
- 4) A day of reckoning came for giving account on their returns on investments.
- 5) On stocktaking, one servant who hid his talent was punished, two who got profit were promoted, and the one with highest profit got extra capital. The remaining seven (who probably invested but without profit) were allowed to exist.
- 6) The citizens who did not want the master to rule over them were destroyed.
- 7) Our fruitfulness with current talents determines future blessings, rewards and the extent to which God will use us.

The wise who wins souls get divine attention and help. **"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:2).**