

Victory Over Sin Series
Lesson 19 – Probation’s End & No Fruit
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

Pope bashes tech giants for exploiting 'hate speech,' 'grooming,' and 'fake news',

Virginia Aabram, October 18, 2021, Washington Examiner

“Pope Francis called on Big Tech to **restrict** “hate speech” and “fake news” during a Saturday [address](#).

“In the name of God, I ask the [technology giants](#) to stop exploiting human weakness, people’s vulnerability, for the sake of profits without caring about the spread of hate speech, grooming, fake news, conspiracy theories, and political manipulation,” he said.

Do you understand where this all leading prophetically? The mark of the beast crisis is right upon us. Probation is soon to end.

Probation to make an end of sin is almost over. Where do you stand?

Joel 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is nigh* at hand;

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

What urgent message does Jesus give Israel?

Luke 12:54-56

54 And he said also to the people, **When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is.**

55 **And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass.**

56 **Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?**

The Jewish nation and the leaders thought they already had favor for God and that they did not see any problem with their spiritual condition. The Jewish nation at the time of Christ was very comfortable about their religious status. They were unaware of their true spiritual condition and Jesus was trying to wake them up before it was too late.

In Daniel 9:24 and 25 God revealed to Israel that they would have 490 years probation to make an end of sin and rebellion.

Daniel 9:24-25

24 **Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.**

25 **Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore**

and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be* seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

From 457 BC (building of Jerusalem) 70 weeks (70 x 7 days in a week = 490 days/years) ended in 34 AD. Probation closed. Jesus was pleading with Jewish people to make an end to sin because their probation as a nation of God's special chosen people was about to end in 3 ½ years!

Matthew 18:21-22

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

22 Jesus saith unto him, **I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.**

In other words, Jesus was revealing how long-suffering and patient that He had been to the Israelite nation. It is interesting in answering Peter's question that 70 x 7 also equaled to the time that God gave Israel to make an end to sin. (70 x 7 = 490)

What did Jesus tell the people of Israel?

Luke 13:5

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Wow! Jesus revealed to the leaders and people of Israel that they were in sin and needed to repent! This is exactly what Jesus is telling His "professed" people today! The same message, repent! Jesus knew that the probation of Israel would close in 34 AD and that the total destruction of the Jerusalem would be about 40 years afterwards in 70 AD.

What was still lacking as Israel got closer to the end of their probation?

Luke 13:6-9

6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung *it*:

9 And if it bear fruit, *well*: and if not, *then* after that thou shalt cut it down.

In this parable the fig tree was ALL LEAVES BUT NO FRUIT! In other words, all talk, but no walk.

What was the owner of the fig tree in the parable seeking? Fruit

How many years was he seeking fruit? Three years! No fruit

What did he find? A fig tree that was suppose to be producing figs, but NO FRUIT.

What was the main purpose of the fig tree? To produce figs!

If the fig tree is not fulfilling its purpose, what is it worth? Nothing, it is in the way.

The fig tree owner said "why cumbereth it the ground?" (Luke 13:7)

Cumbereth (Greek) - to be (render) entirely idle (useless). Strong's Greek Dictionary

What did he (the owner of the fig tree) instruct his dresser (pruner) to do?

Cut it DOWN! It was idle, entirely useless!

What did the dresser request to the owner of the fig tree? Give it one more year, until next season when it is suppose to bear fruit.

What would the dresser be doing to the fruit tree during that extended time?

He would put a lot of attention to the tree by breaking up the soil around the tree and giving it dung (compost) to fertilize and give nutrients needed to produce fruit.

Who did the fig tree represent in the parable of the barren tree?

"Christ's hearers could not misunderstand the application of His words. David had sung of Israel as the vine brought out of Egypt. Isaiah had written, "The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah His pleasant plant." Isaiah 5:7. The generation to whom the Saviour had come were represented by the fig tree in the Lord's vineyard--within the circle of His special care and blessing." COL 214

God's people (Israel) represented the fig tree. Out of compassion and care instead of cutting it down he said he would take care of the tree one more year. This is how much Jesus cared for His people, but He warned them of a coming judgment if they do not bear fruit.

Today, the fig tree represent the professed people of God who have ALL the light of both the law and testimonies like Israel did, but bear NO FRUIT!

What is God's purpose among His people that relates to a fig tree?

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Galatians 5:22-26

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's [those with the fruit of the Spirit] have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Who does the merciful dresser of the vineyard represent? Jesus

"The owner and the dresser of the vineyard are one in their interest in the fig tree. So the Father and the Son were one in their love for the chosen people." COL 216

Were Israel (its leaders and people) found with the fruit of the Spirit at the time of Jesus? NO

How many years was Jesus actively ministering to Israel and its leaders (dig and dung)?

3 years, no fruit at the end the leaders wanted to kill him. Jesus still gave them mercy and opportunity to bear fruit. They killed him (he allow – laid down his life). His blood and sacrifice was the dung to help them bear the fruit. But as a nation they rejected it and in the end still beared no fruit.

What was the command even after the fruit tree was given another year and dunged and still bared to no fruit? CUT IT DOWN. Probation Closed.

“God in His Son had been seeking fruit, and had found none. Israel was a cumberer of the ground. **Its very existence was a curse; for it filled the place in the vineyard that a fruitful tree might fill.** It robbed the world of the blessings that God designed to give. The Israelites had misrepresented God among the nations. They were not merely useless, but a decided hindrance. To a great degree their religion was misleading, and wrought ruin instead of salvation.” COL 215

Did Jesus give Israel an invitation of mercy in the midst of their apostasy?

It is clear here that Israel was given time, but at the same time they were given a judgment and an invitation of mercy! Their literal probation in 34 AD was about to close and they were not bearing fruit! The Jewish nation’s judgment as a people was set and the people did not discern that their probation was about to close!

How does the lesson of Israel’s probation relate to our end time generation? We ALL need to examine our own hearts. Do you have a tree full of leaves, but no fruit! Week after week you made promises to God but broke them. Have you made commitments to God but failed? Commitments to let go of selfishness, sin, and worldliness?

“The warning sounds down along the line to us in this generation. Are you, O careless heart, a fruitless tree in the Lord's vineyard? Shall the words of doom erelong be spoken of you? How long have you received His gifts? How long has He watched and waited for a return of love? Planted in His vineyard, under the watchful care of the gardener, what privileges are yours! How often has the tender gospel message thrilled your heart! You have taken the name of Christ, you are outwardly a member of the church which is His body, and yet you are conscious of no living connection with the great heart of love. The tide of His life does not flow through you. The sweet graces of His character, "the fruits of the Spirit," are not seen in your life.” COL 216

Why does a barren christian only have leaves?

Selfishness. Sin. Worldliness. Mixing. Inactive in doing God's work. Waste time. Idle. No victory over sin.

Can a person depend on their righteous relationship they had with God in the past, even though they are now fruitless?

Ezekiel 33:12-13

- 12 Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his *righteousness* in the day that he sinneth.
- 13 When I shall say to the righteous, *that* he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.

What is Jesus calling all fruitless professed Christians to do?

Hosea 14:1-2

- 1 O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.
- 2 Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive *us* graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

Matthew 4:17 ... Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

What does Jesus say to those who refuse to repent but still profess righteousness?

Luke 13:24-28

- 24 **Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.**
- 25 **When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:**
- 26 **Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.**
- 27 **But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.**
- 28 **There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.**

We all must bear fruit. There will be no fruitless “trees” in the kingdom of heaven.

What is the urgent warning of judgment for our day?

Revelation 14:6-7

- 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
- 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Remember with the judgment of God He gives His invitation of mercy! Your probation is soon to close friend. Will you be a tree full of leaves with NO FRUIT or a tree FULL of FRUIT?