

Sunday, July 25, 2021  
"Stories of Kingdom Grace"  
Summary of the parable of the Unfruitful Fig Tree  
Luke 13:1-9  
Wayne Shelton

In the parable of the unfruitful fig tree, Jesus answers a question of moral evil. Jesus' answer was clear but his words are tough (13:2-3). His implication is that we are all guilty before God and justly deserve death. *'Be warned,'* Jesus was saying, *'men and women are out of step with their master – and so too is Planet Earth.'* Certainly, every earthquake and flood, every conflict and war are testimony to that. Life as we know it is unpredictable and temporary. We need to wake up to this and turn back to God while we have time. Yes, one day there will be a world without pain, but it will have to be a world without sin. To ignore Jesus' words is to be heading towards a fate even more tragic than that of those Galileans, for we will be exposing ourselves to the second death of which Jesus spoke in 12:4-5. If we wake up to the critical times in which we live, we will turn to God and ask for his grace to live our lives in harmony with him. The choice we have is not only difficult and vital: it is also urgent.

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