

## My Soul Clings

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03-23-2025

Maria's Story – an example

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### Luke 13:6-9 – Parable of the Fig Tree

- 13:6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.
- 13:7 So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'
- 13:8 He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and fertilize it.
- 13:9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'

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Question 1 – What is the significance of the fig tree in this parable?

- God's people
- Nurtured and cultivated
- Expected to bear fruit
- Reflect a relationship with God
- Not bearing fruit reflects spiritual barrenness by the people not by God

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Question 2 – What does the three-year period of fruitlessness symbolize

- Reflects God's patience and the opportunity to bear fruit.
- Biblical representation of completeness.
- An expectation is set.
- We become faced with the challenge of fruitlessness and how we are using the Grace that God has provided.

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Question 3 – What does the gardener's intercession teach us about Christ's role in our lives?

- Christ reflects the gardener – pleading for our opportunity to bear fruit.
- Christ intercedes on our behalf.
- Balance of Grace with patience.
- Seeking a life that produces spiritual fruit.

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Question 4 – What does this parable reveal about God's patience and justice?

- We have the opportunity to wrestle with the tension between God's mercy and His justice.
- Consequences.

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### Question 5 – How does this parable challenge us to bear spiritual fruit in our own lives?

- We have the opportunity to reflect on our lives, encouraging self-reflection and personal growth.
- Bearing fruit or not?
- Pay attention to God's call to serve others, live out our faith in practical ways, and allow the Holy Spirit to produce fruit in us and through us.

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### Retelling the Parable of the Fig Tree

- Time
- Patience
- Caring
- Cultivation
- Tending
- Response, and bearing Spiritual Fruit

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### 5 Key Statements from Luke 13:6-9

- **1. God's Patience is a Call to Repentance, Not an Endless Delay.**
- Just as the vineyard owner gives the fig tree one more chance, God's patience with us is a gracious opportunity to turn back to Him. It's not a guarantee that time will always be given, so we must respond to His call while there is still time.
- **2. Spiritual Fruitfulness is the Evidence of a Genuine Relationship with God.**
- Just as the fig tree is expected to bear fruit, our lives are meant to reflect the transformative power of God. True faith in Christ produces lasting spiritual fruit, such as love, joy, peace, and good works.

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### 5 Key Statements from Luke 13:6-9

- **3. Christ is Our Advocate, Interceding on Our Behalf for Spiritual Renewal.**
- Like the gardener who pleads for more time for the tree, Jesus intercedes for us before God, asking for grace and mercy. His advocacy gives us the chance for spiritual renewal and transformation, even when we fall short.

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### 5 Key Statements from Luke 13:6-9

- **4. Our Spiritual Journey is a Process of Cultivation and Growth.**
- Spiritual fruit doesn't appear overnight; it requires time, care, and nurturing. Just as the gardener tended to the tree, we must engage in spiritual disciplines (prayer, Bible study, worship) to cultivate a life that bears fruit for God.

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### 5 Key Statements from Luke 13:6-9

- **5. God's Judgment is Real, and There Are Consequences for Fruitlessness.**
- The parable warns us that while God is patient, there comes a time when the opportunity for repentance ends. We are called to bear fruit and live out our faith; failure to do so may lead to judgment, and we must take this truth seriously.

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