

The parable of the fig tree is one of Jesus' familiar parables of urgency. It reminds us not to waste our time it is later than we think. Those whom Pilate killed thought they had more time. So did the people on whom the tower fell. Don't we? After all, none of us got up this morning and said, "I suspect in a few hours, this will be it." But to be fully human is to be, a heartbeat, a breath away, from the end, and we avoid that at all costs. The gist of the gospel message is to live life fully, that is faithfully, while we can. God has given us the gift of free will with the gift of life. Lent is a time yet again, to change our minds, to once more, ask for another chance before it is too late. The parable of the fig tree is all about being given another chance. God wants that for all of us.

Jim Rohn suggests that, "Life is all about constant, predictable patterns of change. He says, for six thousand years of recorded history, as humans [we] have entered this world, received parental and classroom instruction, and [we have] gathered the experience of life; many [of us] have set ... ambitious goals, and have dreamed lofty dreams. As the wheel of life continues its

constant turning, [the entire] range of human emotions appear, and disappear in an unpredictable cycle. We are faced with myriad of choices along the way. With each choice, there is a chance that we will choose, wrongly. But, Jesus is there at each major decision if we choose to make him part of the connection, through prayer. But in the end, the choice is still one we make freely, sometimes we still insist on going it alone, in the absence of God, and we make mistakes as did people through-out human history. Some examples; Abel and Cain both sons of Adam, Abel chooses God. Cain chooses murder. And God lets him. Abraham and Lot, both pilgrims in Cannan. Abraham chooses God. Lot chooses Sodom. And God lets him. Peter and Judas, both deny their Lord, Peter seeks mercy. Judas seeks death. And God lets him. In every age of history, on every page of Scripture, the truth is revealed, and God allows us to make our own choices. No one says this more clearly than Jesus, as he says choose "a narrow or a wide gate" (Mt 13-4), "a narrow road or a wide road" (Mt 13-4), we can choose to be numbered among the sheep or the goats' (Mt. 25:32-33). Jim Rohn continues in "Seasons for Life by

saying, "it is our natural destiny to grow, to succeed, to prosper and to find happiness while we are here. Think about it... We decide to read or not to read. We decide to try or to give up. We blame ourselves for our failures, or we blame others. We tell the truth, or we lie, we in essence make the decision to succeed or fail. The God who loves us more than we can imagine has given us the choice that will permit us to select our own achievement or our own downfall."

"This strange, but all knowing God gave to us a gracefully balanced orb called earth. He placed us [here], the intelligent human who would either develop it, or destroy it. How extremely interesting that God would leave both projects unfinished. Across the rivers and streams he built no bridges, he left the pictures unpainted, and the masterpieces [un-scored] and unsung, the great books unwritten, and the vastness of space unexplored. For accomplishment of these things, God created the us, the unfinished human, who within our hearts and minds, have the capacity to do all thing things and more, depending again on choice" (Jim Rohn www.jimrohn.com).

Our attitude determines our choice, and our choice determines results. “There are times when God sends thunder to stir us. There are times when God sends blessings to lure us. But there are times when God sends nothing but silence as he honors us with the freedom to choose where we spend eternity” (Lucado 55). For as long as we continue to draw breath, we have the chance to complete the work that God had begun in us. That is why we celebrate this journey of Lent year after year; as long as we are here, we will never be finished. Lent, this introspective season, brings us yet another chance to become God’s Easter message to ourselves, a chance to be reborn and somehow transformed; the choice is yours to make. What ever that choice is..... God will let you.....

Works Cited

- Rohn, Jim. “Seasons of Life.” Jim Rohn Weekly E-Zine, www.jimrohn.com. 18 Feb 2001.
- Lucado, Max. *He Choose The Nails*. Word Publishing, Nashville. 2000. 49-56.