



Stepping Stones

Luke 13:6-9 New Revised Standard Version

⁶Then 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. ⁷So 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?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

Notes: _____



"When God gives you a second chance, it's not something you take for granted." –Lane Kiffin (College Football Coach)

I am reminded of a rose bush which we set out at our former residence. After a couple of years in the ground, it really offered no evidence of growth or any kind of change. It stayed the same. Talk about disappointing. But, when we were preparing for our move in 2019, we decided to transfer the bush from our old yard to the new one. In no time, it began to take off. In fact, it has grown so much that at times it gets out of control and must be cut back. Talk about a big difference with time and a new location.

The gardener in today's parable insisted the vineyard owner give a certain fig tree a little more time. "Let me tend to it and give it some additional love and care," he essentially said. To this, the vineyard owner consented. The gardener knew what the tree was capable of and was willing to take those steps necessary for it to live into its full potential.

Like the tree, God has given us life, endowed each of us with potential, and longs for us to produce good fruit. As an armband I have states, "We were made to thrive." Sometimes, we do this quite well and, at other times, we become content with "branches and leaves." This life is short, so God wants us to live in such a way that it counts. We do this by heeding the opportunities with which God graces us.

- 1. Not accomplishing anything is a set up for disaster.**
- 2. God's patience with us outweighs human patience.**
- 3. Even with another chance, the time remains limited.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, thank you for being a God of second chances. Help me not to pass up the opportunity to know you and produce good fruit. Amen.