

FIG TREE WISDOM



THAT “FIG TREE” EPISODE



STORIES BASICS



Fig trees grow up to 30 feet tall, or about 9.5 meters tall. They can put on a display of fertile leaves right before the growing season, leaving the impression that they are doing their job.

But, sometimes they just do not produce any fruit at all: ---they just sort of pretend to be getting ready to produce fruit.

If the tree is infected with this virus and thus susceptible to this false growth scenario, they will simply never produce any fruit, at all, ever. This infection can even harm the sheep’s digestive tract.

All shepherds worth their salt, will know the signs of this arboreal disease and cut these very infected trees down in the first five years of their growth cycle, for use as “firewood”. This is a basic precaution for keeping this disease from spreading to other healthy trees in the fig grove and costing a lamb or two....



ISAIAH 2:4

Shepherds always carried a “walking stick”, also called a crosier, and a pruning shear when they went out to the flock, which is called a “hookbill knife”. “...SPEARS INTO PRUINING HOOKS..”

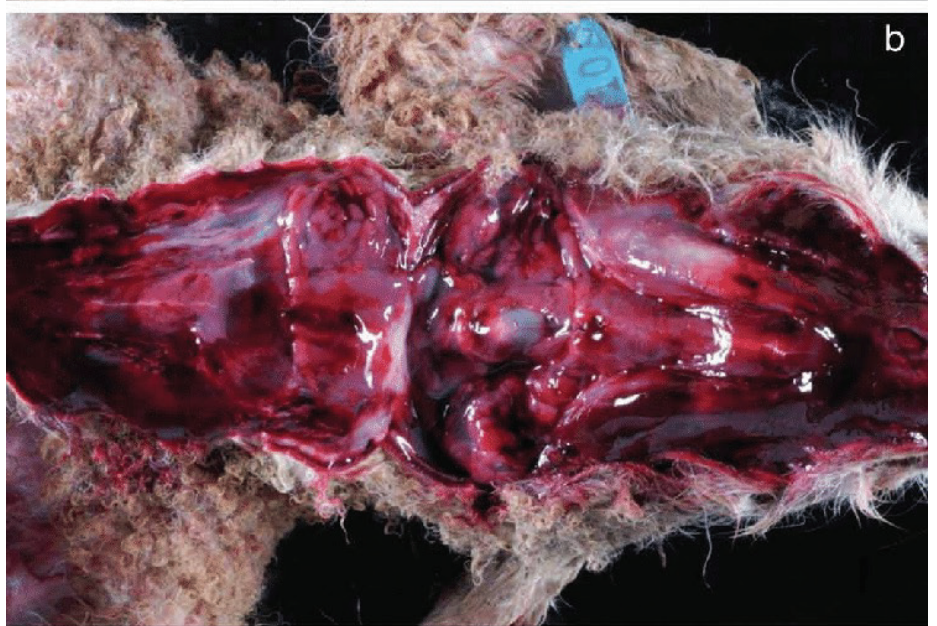
Figs need regular, deep root, watering. If the leaves are yellow, then the problem is most likely amounts of water that the tree is receiving. This is the first problem of the grove's tending gardener.

It is a tell tale sign that the gardener is not attending to his grove as he / she should. The end result is the creation of tiny, barbed, thorn-like, extensions that will get in the gut of local animals and can cause them to die a very long and cruel death by serrating the walls of the animals digestive system. An infected animal would then become a meal for the shepherd.], because it is better to eat itb then than it is to eat it later after it begins to starve. Zsuich asn animal can not be sold at the market.

The one charged directly with tending to a small fig grove is usually the women of the house, because the men are out with the sheep and goats. Yet it is the men who are out there with the animals that are usually charged with the impromptu pruning of damaged saplings with either his hookbill knife, or cane cutters knife. This impromptu pruning is the primary reason that they carried these implements with them every day. These knives could be used as defensive weapons, from time to time, but normally a shepherd would rely on such a long-tailed sling, due to its accuracy and weight, in a dry desert setting.

[A man armed with such a sling and a full bag of stones, would be able to strike a round watermelon with sufficient force so as to send the stone all the way through the melon. The pruning knives could then be used to finally dispatch the villain / opposition. ... Ask the Hesbollah

STARVING SHEEP



a

b

Fig trees are commonly troubled by several fungal diseases, as well as the odd bacteria or virus.

Knowing how to recognize fig tree diseases can help keep you one step ahead of potential garden disaster.

Of all the pathogens that can cause problems with fig trees, fungi is the most concerning. Fig tree disease problems, caused by fungi, can affect nearly any part of the plant, including fruits, leaves, and internal tissues.

There is little that can be done once some fungal infections are in full force, other than cutting it out or cutting it fully down, so always practice good sanitation and beware of how much you're watering your fig to reduce favourable conditions for fungal germination.

Today in Australia, one can eat figs which are grown by licensed growers, who have their trees state legally inspected, without any fear, what so ever.

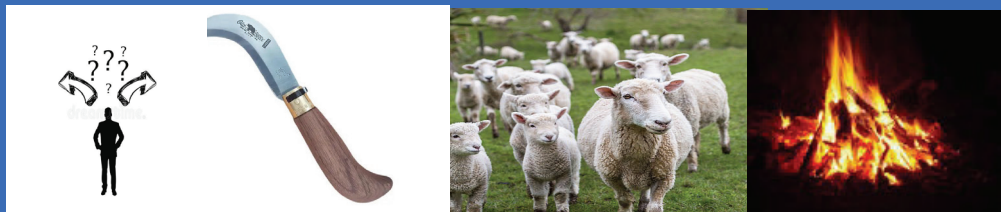


Fig Rust – This fungus causes leaves to turn yellow-brown and drop in late summer or early fall. When the leaves are examined, many rust colored spots are visible on the underside of the leaf. Although not generally fatal, perennial attacks from fig rust can weaken your plant. Neem oil may destroy an early rust infestation, but [removing fallen debris will often prevent fig rust from taking root.](#)

Leaf Blight – *Pellicularia kolera* (leaf blight) is another fungus that attacks leaves, though it causes spots that start yellow and appear water-soaked. As the disease progresses, water-soaked areas spread and dry out, leaving a papery surface behind. Thin holes may tear out of affected leaves, or the entire leaf may brown and die, with a web-like mat of fungal bodies clinging to the underside. [Sanitation is the only control– remove these leaves as infection becomes apparent and keep infected debris off the ground](#)

Pink Blight – Certainly the most colourful of the common fig issues, pink blight often affects the interior of overgrown figs, appearing as a pink to white, velvety coating on sickly or dead branches. The fungus can spread from these dying tissues into healthy ones, destroying whole trees if left untreated. [Cut out diseased tissues and destroy them immediately and open the inside of your fig by thinning out up to a third of the smaller growth, creating plenty of space for air circulation.](#)

The basic choice is both simple and humane... --You can cut down the fig tree, replant one, wait from six months to two years, depending on the variety, and then have a new tree that is free from the original problem, with the fungus living in the ground or You can spend 16 times the price of the new sapling and buy a new ewe, and just hope that this new ewe does not eat of the pathogen infected grass, that unloved fruit of the slothful owner of such a grove of trees left to bloom later, thus running the risk of being absolutely despised by the whole community for not meeting your simple and basic duties. Jesus did not despise the fig tree, rather He sacrificially loved the sheep.



THE CHOICE IS YOURS ...

.....“PRUNE-PROTECT AND BURN OFF”, --OR-- “DO NOT PRUNE, BE DISPISED AND BURN OUT” Hmmmmmmm

What 3 things did Jesus thus teach his followers after Bartimaeus, the Entry, and all of those other miracles? What more can we say then, than just think about a bit of history and logic

- ❑ BE ATTENTIVE TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITIES SPIRITUAL HEALTH**
- ❑ BE PROACTIVE AS A SHEPHERD, SERVE BEFORE BEING TOLD, BEING FILLED WITH COMPASSION BY DOING THAT WHICH OTHERS HAVE FOTGOTTEN. DO NOT WAIT TO SAVE A TREE ANF YOUR SHEEP.**
- ❑ DO WHAT THE MASTER ASKS, EVEN IF IT IS FOR THE FIRST TIME AND YOU ARE SCARED.....**

FIGS IN HOME REMEDIES USED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES

Given in a medical manual from about 237 BC

Certain cultivars of figs are found all over the whole Mediterranean .

1. FIGS ARE VERY HIGH IN MINERAL AND FIBER CONTENT.

The fruit and the fresh leaves were used, in general, to treat certain cases of constipation, osteoporosis, blood sugar (sweet urine) illnesses, and as a healing addition for when someone has an issue with broken bones and other skeleton disorders.

2. FIGS ARE LOW IN CALORIES BUT HIGH IN DIGESTIVE FIBER.

Because they are then low in calories but high in fiber, they were then used by some to treat obesity, in measured amounts.

3. FIGS PROMOTE GOOD INTESTINES

Figs were for various prescribed for perceived / defined liver ailments. They were for prostate problems as well.

4. FIGS HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON GENERAL WEIGHT.

Figs low GI index of a moderate 61, they were prescribed for certain problems with obesity.

5. FIGS ARE IN VITAMINS A, C, & E, AND POTASSIUM.

They were used to treat cramps, constipation, and better digestive and liver functions.

6. FIGS WORK AND TASTE BETTER THAN PRUNES,

plus more readily available.

7. Logic sequence:

If birds eat figs, and we eat birds then it stands that figs are also okay for humans to eat. Sheep love to eat the shoots and encroaching vines, but this has bad consequences for humans later on, and live stock straight away. Therefore one of the important questions that a doctor in 200 bc would ask is “how many figs have you been eating??”

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BUT THESE MEDICAL POINTS ARE STILL NOT THE PRIMARY MESSAGE OF THE FIG TREE FOR YOU AND ME !!!

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WHAT IS THEN “THE BASE MESSAGE” FOR ALL OF THE READERS OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK ????

- 1. THE ONE WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE FATE OF THE FIG TREE WAS JESUS, THE MESSIAH AND IN A MUCH LESSER EXTENT THE NON FRUIT-BEARING FIG TREE ITSELF.*
- 2. THE FIG TREE’S PROBLEM WAS NOT IN ‘FIG BEARING SEASON, THE TREE HAD NO FRUIT. IT HAD NOTHING IN WHICH TO CONTRIBUTE.*
- 3. THE FIG TREE, IN NOT HAVING ANYTHING TO CONTRIBUTE, HAD LOST / FORGOTTEN / OR DENIED THE MAIN PURPOSE AND MISSION OF ALL FIG TREES WHICH IS TO PRODUCE FRUIT FOR THE COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS. REMEMBER THE PURPOSE OF WHY WE ARE HERE IN THIS PLACE.*
- 4. FIG FRUIT SHOULD FIRST BE NEW SOUL’S BROUGHT INTO THE FAMILY OF THE BELIEVERS.*
- 5. FIG FRUIT SHOULD SECOND BE AN ABSOLUTE DEVOTION TO JESUS AS THE SUPREME LORD AND SOVERIGN, WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS THE GIVER OF INSPIRATION IN ALL SPIRITUAL MATTERS.*
- 6. FIG FRUIT MUST BE A SUBMISSIVE DISCIPLINE TO GOD AS GOD MOST HIGH., SUPREME TEACHER AND AUTHORITY*

I have been thinking both about what we are doing, what more we need to be doing and to commend all such good works of productivity !!!

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WHAT ARE THE OTHER HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT “BASE MESSAGES” REGARDING THIS PASSAGE?? 1 → 5

THE EMERGENCE OF THE PRIMARY PATTERN

1. *MAKE JESUS AND HIS CHURCH, THE PINACLE OF YOUR EXISTENCE, HONESTLY. DO NOT FOOL YOURSELF, FOR ALL FOOLS DESPISE JESUS AND GOD BY THEIR REBELLIOUS LIFE-STYLES..*

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

2. *BE PREPARED TO PRUNE EVEN THE CLOSEST AND DEAREST BRANCHES ON THE FIG TREE.*

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

3. *NO MARRIAGE, NOR COMMITMENT. NOR PRIOR ATTACHMENT, IS EVER WORTH LOSING YOUR OWN SOUL. THE LOVE AND SUPREMACY OF JESUS IS THE APEX OF ALL OF OUR THINKING, EVEN OF OUR CHOICES OF PROFESSIONS.*

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

4. *THE ACTIONS FROM THE ‘MERE’ ABSENCE OF FRUIT ON THE FIG TREE SEEMS A BIT EXTREME, BUT REMEMBER WHO DID IT AND THEN WORK BACKWARDS FROM THE FACT OF JESUS’ SINLESSNESS, THUS REMEMBERING THE REAL FUNDAMENTALS.*

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

5. *THE FIG TREE WAS FIRST VIEWED BY JESUS FROM A DISTANCE, AND HE EXPECTED IT TO HAVE FRUIT. BUT, IT DID NOT, UPON CLOSER INSPECTION. JESUS IS INSPECTING US TODAY FROM CLOSE QUARTERS, SO BE TRULY READY TO PUT AWAY ALL FALSE APPEARANCES FOR THEY CAN RENDER YOU USELESS AND A SOUL-KILLER.*



Superiority of SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

WHAT ARE THE OTHER HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT “BASE MESSAGES” REGARDING THIS PASSAGE?? 6 → 10

THE CONTINUING CENTRALITY OF THE PRIMARY PATTERN

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

6. ALL FALSE APPEARANCES ARE CASES OF HYPOCRISY AND GOD HATES HYPOCRISY. DO NOT FOLLOW THAT PATH. DO NOT PROTECT CERTAIN “FRIENDS” BECAUSE THEY ARE YOUR ONLY FRIENDS. GO OUT AND PREACH – TEACH THE WHOLE TRUTH.

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

7. THE FIG TREE MAY WELL HAVE WANTED TO REMAIN AS IT WAS, BUT JESUS OVERRODE ITS DESIRES AND COMFORT ZONES.

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

THE PREIMMINENCY OF “I” IS TO BE DEMOTED, AND REPLACED WITH THE SUPERIOR MISSION OF JESUS WHICH IS TO REMAIN PARAMOUNT.

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

THE COMING IN OF THE “LORDSHIP” PICTURE INTO OUR FAITH THINKING IS WHAT ACTUALLY DEFINES OUR CHRISTIAN STATUS.

SOVERIGN SUPREMACY

9. IF ONE CAN NOT, NOR DOES NOT GIVE TOTAL; OBEDIENCE TO THE SUPREMACY OF THE GOD-HEAD, IT WILL BE PRUNED AND SHOULD BE !!!

OTHER LESSONS FROM THE FIG TREE CAN POSSIBLY BE MADE, BUT THEY TOO BUILT AROUND THE SAME SUPREMACY...

FACT: ...

EVERYTHING COMES BACK TO THE SOVERIGN SUPREMACY CONTROL FACTOR, AND EVERY INTERPRETATION OF THE FIG TREE EPISODE PLACES ALL UNDER ITS APEXIAL OBSERVING EYE.

OF ALL THOSE THERE WHO SAW THAT FIG TREE EPISODE, PERFORMED BY THE GREATEST OF ALL OF THOSE WHO WERE THE “OCHOLOI” THAT WERE THERE, FULLY ALIVE, DURING THE FIRST CENTURY, THOSE WHO WERE THE PRIME, PRIMARY FIRST EYEWITNESSES’, THEN JESUS HIMSELF IS THE SUPREME SOVERIGN. **JESUS IS THE GREAT “EYEWITNESS”.** **HE IS THE ABSOLUTE SUPREME ONE !!!**

WE MUST PLACE ALL OF OUR SELVES AND ALL OF OUR TIME AND ALL OF OUR EFFORTS ON WHAT JESUS HAS ALREADY TOLD ALL OF US IN MARK 16:15-16. HE WHO WAITS TO HEAR SOME SPECIAL CALL WILL NEVER HEAR ONE, AND HAS NEVER HEARD ONE. ----BECAUSE, LIKE THE FIG TREE, HE, OR SHE, REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE WHOLITIC REALITY OF SOVERIGN SUPREMACY.

“LOOK FIRST TO THYSELF, TO SEE IF IT ACTUALLY COULD BE TRULY APPLIED TO THEE !!”

10 GREAT QUESTIONS FROM THE FIG TREE EPISODE

1. What about the real people you deal with every day, do they know that you are a Christian?
2. Do your friends notice that you live an unworldly lifestyle?
3. If you needed the testimony of your neighbour to go to heaven, would you make it?
4. When you became a Christian did the church gain a member on whom it can depend?
5. Did you really become an enemy of Satan when Christ added you to the church?
6. What appeals to you most; attending worship on Sunday and Wednesday, or doing your own thing?
7. If you were to depart this earth today, would you have any unfinished work in God's Kingdom that you should have done?
8. If a friend asked you what he needed to do to be saved, could you show him in the New Testament?
9. If the Lord stayed with you a few days at your house, how would you go about showing Him your true faith? How can we all show Him?
10. In what ways can we encourage others to good works? On Wednesday night Satish did a good job in teaching the kids about the armour of GodHeather went the second and third mile in getting things organized for the campJudy picks up Bahaki and her sister for Kidz Kluband there are more !!! The point is that all such works are examples of Sovereign Supremacy in action.

Today is the Lord's Day.and He is sitting beside the remnants of an insignificant fig tree.

John Hanson

Choices

If you do a search in the internet, you will find some sources suggesting that an average adult makes ~ 35,000 choices a day assuming a 7 hour sleep per day. That is an amazing ~34 choices per minute. These choices cover things like what to wear, eat, buy, date, marry etc. Many of these, on the surface, in and of itself are neutral i.e. no right or wrong, no particular benefit or harm. ---But if we consider deeper into the choices we made, into the reason/motive/consequence that we failed to put into the equation of decision-making, we may discover that the choices we made may not be as innocent or as neutral as we might think.

The real question we need to ask ourselves as we make choices is: **“Will this bring me closer to God or otherwise?”** Our aim as children of God is to grow closer to God every moment of our lives, and this in itself is a choice. If this is what you choose, then you need to consider the following 3 points –

1. **What basis do I use to make choices?** In fact, ask yourself this very question - What is the guiding principle that I use? Considering Psalm 119:105 - **Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.** If I do not spend time in God’s word or meditate on His teachings, how do I know where I am going and to make godly decision? I am literally blind, without **“light on my path.”**
2. **If I have been learning God’s word, letting His word be the light on my path, then my daily decisions should reflect that. In 2 Cor 10:5, Paul mentioned “we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”** The key word to consider is “every”. Some may argue that if I am to do this, by letting God’s word be the basis of my **every** daily decision-making, this is cognitively cumbersome. My thought process will slow down, decision making will slow down, and life itself will slow down. True, things will slow down and you will feel mentally cumbersome. But just like learning anything new, in the initial stages of learning and putting into practice, we do it slowly and carefully. But once we get a hang of it, it will become less cumbersome and we will slowly incorporate it to become a part of us.
3. **In Mark 12:29-30, when Jesus answered which is the most important commandment, he said “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”** God wants every part of us, heart, soul, mind and strength. **This covers both our inner being and body (strength). God wants all of us, not just part of our heart, soul, mind and strength, but every bit of every part of us i.e. everything within us and everything else including our choices.**

Let’s put this into a practical example. When we say we want to be transformed (Rom 12) and if we are brutally honest with ourselves (which is surprising difficult at times), we know that the transformation mentioned in Romans 12 is not happening in us as much as we would like. Some areas of our lives are still as worldly as it has been or at least still partly owned by the world. You know what I am referring to, envy, jealousy, hate, self-centeredness... How can this be? Not that we do not have the desire to change but it seems almost undoable.

Let us encourage one another to start asking the question in bold above when we make decisions, no matter big or small or trivial. And yes, it may not feel “normal” at first, but with perseverance in practicing, the best part is that we are ACTUALLY letting God into all parts of our lives as we let the holy word of God guide us in every decision.

James Chan

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