

“...strengthen thy brethren”



Luke 22:32

**Fellowship Dinner and Men's Business Meeting**

Today—following worship service

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**of Genesee County**

5284 Fenton Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

**April 30, 2017**

**Welcome All:**

We are thankful to have you with us today. The Lord's church here is dedicated to the restoration of New Testament Christianity, respecting both the authority and the silence of the Scriptures.

Again, thank you for worshipping God today.

**Schedule of Services for Gospel Meeting**

Worship...	Sunday	11:00 a.m.
	Sunday	6:00 p.m.
Bible Study...	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.

**Website: [www.coc-gc.org](http://www.coc-gc.org)**

Preacher: Michael Golwitzer (810) 771-4627

**Ladies Bible Class**

The next class is May 9th at 10:00 am.

Joyce and Marty Stearns-health problems

Pryia Vannoy—health problems

Al Haskell—waiting for kidney donor

Chuck Smith—heart, Sciatic, recent fall

Lauren Weidner-encouragement

McKenna Schummer-Jeannie's cousin-cancer (10 yrs old)

Jody Rynca-cancer-Cindy's friend

Patty Lewis-Chuck's daughter—recovering from surgery

Josephine Potter—Phyllis' Niece whose son passed away

Gary Stebbins-pinched nerve in leg

Marie Hall-recovering from hip surgery

Kathy and Misty Davis-health problems-Cindy's friends

Carol Tobkin-cancer and receiving chemo treatments

Don Cross-Cher'e -uncle-cancer/chemo

Edith Taylor-Bill's mother

Cody Cantrell-coma-Bill's friend.

Rachel Hall—health problems

Tom Corbin —Cher'e -relative-cancer

Ireland Family—health problems-Cindy's friends

Wayne Hamilton-health problems-Cindy's friend

Donna Duford-health problems-Betty's daughter

Susan Wills-encouragement-Betty's daughter

Debra Crewse-health-Betty's daughter

Earlene Currier-Betty's aunt—health

Pat Crain-Joyce's friend in Genesys Hospital

Al Haskell-nephew (Brad Haskell) passed away

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**Sermons:**

AM: Can God Depend On You?

PM: Who Shall Be Able To Stand?

## The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

"He also spoke to them this parable: 'A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, "Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?" But he answered and said to him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down"' (Luke 13:6-9).

This parable is closely connected with the preceding verses because of the theme of repentance. In this particular vineyard there is a fig tree planted and its owner has come seeking fruit from it. However, for the third straight year, it has not produced any fruit!

Instructions are given to the vineyard keeper to cut this tree down since it is not being productive and is essentially wasting the ground space. The keeper requests that it be spared for now and be treated in such a way as to induce fruitfulness (i.e., digging around it and fertilizing it). If the tree still doesn't bear fruit after this additional effort and time are invested in it, then the keeper agrees that the tree should be cut down.

What is the spiritual message of this parable? Jesus is comparing His listeners to a fig tree planted in a choice place--a vineyard. The number "three" (cf. 13:7) should not be interpreted as a literal number of years since the additional year in the following verse is certainly not literal. Rather, the numbers merely imply that there is a limit to God's patience. If a person is given plenty of opportunities to be productive (i.e., bear fruit) for the Lord but continues to fail in so doing, he is worthy of being cut down and will eventually be destroyed. He is wasting

precious resources that could be given to another to use. He is not fulfilling the fundamental purpose of his existence (cf. Eccl. 12:13,14). Those to whom Jesus spoke had been called to repentance by John the baptizer and Jesus, and they had ample time and opportunity to bring forth the fruits of repentance. Since they had failed to do such, they deserved to be destroyed. The Jewish nation was destroyed in AD 70 for their lack of repentance and rejection of the Christ. They were not bearing the fruits of righteousness as God expected of them (cf. Matt. 3:10). It is true that God does not want any individual or nation to perish (cf. II Pet. 3:9). However, there is a limit to His patience and tolerance for lack of production.

by Stephen R. Bradd Audio Evangelism.

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Someone once said to Harry Truman's mother, "Mrs. Truman, you must be very proud that a son of yours is in the White House." She responded, "Well, yes, but I have another son who lives down the road—and I'm just as proud of him." Ah, the wisdom of that mother! Thank God for mothers who love their children and who are impartial to them in spite of talents or lack of talents . . . their failures or attainments . . . their personality differences or behavioral characteristics. A mother is the only woman who can divide her love among all her children, and yet each child still has all of it. There is no depth to which a child can fall that diminishes a mother's love. There is no height of success a child may achieve that will increase her love. Her love is protective, tender, consistent, impartial, understanding, forgiving, unchanging, unselfish, giving, contagious, ever lasting. Solomon said of such wisdom: "Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you" (Proverbs 4:6). —Author Unknown, House to House