

Pruning Grace

1/31/2020 Rachael Martin

I don't know where exactly I'm going with this but I was reminded of the fig tree that Jesus cursed today as I was thinking about some things that have happened lately. More so I was thinking about the fact that Jesus saw right to through to the roots to know that it wasn't going to produce anything good.

Jesus was hungry in **Matthew 21** and he saw the fig tree and thought he would get some food but the fig tree hadn't produced fruit. It was meant to produce fruit, and it had leaves on it but there wasn't any. I believe Jesus was disappointed that there wasn't any fruit on the tree, and showing His power He cursed the fig tree and in His grace, right after, He taught the disciples to speak in faith.

I think in our relationships, we can sometimes fail to have grace when it comes to moments where we are let down or hurt or when something they do or say is not what we expected (fruit was expected from the fig tree).

The spiritual meaning of grace: *It has been defined as the divine influence which operates in humans to regenerate and sanctify, to inspire virtuous impulses, and to impart strength to endure trial and resist temptation; and as an individual virtue or excellence of divine origin.*

To inspire virtuous impulses.... hmmm... when we are going through a particularly tough time with a loved one – how do we see past it to allow grace to flow? When we start to make choices based on what is right – what is wisdom – what is grace – then we allow what isn't right, what isn't wisdom and what isn't grace to have NO PLACE and it dies. I visually see God walking around us looking for places He can trim off and throw away that aren't part of what He created us to be.

The grace and power of Jesus go hand in hand. I pray Lord that each of us will grow in grace and allow You to do a great work in us so that we can prove to be faithful in our relationships. I pray that we will do what is right even when it doesn't feel right so that You can ultimately cut off the areas that really shouldn't have a place in us. Thank You Lord for Your amazing grace and for Your loving us so much that You would take the time to landscape our spiritual man! In Jesus name – Amen!

Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

1 Corinthians 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.

2 Corinthians 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

2 Corinthians 12:9 - And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

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