

John 15:1-8 The Vine and Branches

John 20:14-17 "When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" ***She thought it was the gardener*** and said to him, "Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Luke 13: 7-9"And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' "And he answered and said to him, '***Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; & if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.***'"

Jesus' (& Joseph's) known Occupation/Trade (at Nazareth in Galilee- Mt 13:54, Lk 2:4, 51)

In Matt 13:55-56, He is called a carpenter or son of a carpenter

In Mark 6:3, when rejected at Nazareth, it is said, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?"

A carpenter works wood, and so can pick fine woods or even harvest good woods- they know grains and stocks of trees (hard woods, soft woods, color of woods for natural or stain)
I'm not saying anything about carpenters around Nazareth wearing proper eye protection or not, but think of this parable about Specks and Planks in Eyes - Mt 7:3-4 Lk 6:41-42 – Experienced Carpenters have it happen too!

Carpenters in between work jobs or because of inconsistent work often also diversified and farmed on their own land if they had it, or worked as a farm hand or with migrant farm work. If not only migrant worker for farm, then also craftsmen traveled with different building campaigns of rulers (example, Herod's different palace or port constructions).
Farm Equipment- "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk. 9:62)

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me. . . For my yoke is easy and burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).

Vineyard Parables of Jesus

- 1) Wicked Tenants Seize Vineyard - Mk 12:1-11, Mt 21:33-44, Lk 20:9-18
- 2) Vineyard Workers & Employer - Mt 20:1-16
- 3) Two Sons Commanded to Work- Mt 21:28-32

Nature & Plant Growth Parables

Sower & Seed Mk 4:3-8 Mt 13:3-9 Lk 8:5-8 "Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on

rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

Seed Growing Secretly Mk 4:26-29 "He said, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come."

Mustard Seed Mk 4:30-32 Mt 13:31-32 Lk 13:18-19 "He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Budding Fig-Tree Mk 13:28-29 Mt 24:32-33 Lk 21:29-31 "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Barren Fig-Tree - - Lk 13:6-9 Quoted Above, 'leave it and I will work with it...'

Leaven - Mt 13:33 Lk 13:20-21 "He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

Wheat & Weeds - Mt 13:24-30 "He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' _He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest;* then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'""

Prodigal Son - - Lk 15:11-32 (hired out to pig farmers) ..."When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you....."'

Matthew 7:16-18 & Luke 6:43-44 "Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Matthew 12:33-35 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad. You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil."

Amos the Prophet in Old Testament also had two occupations (shepherd – and arbor keeper?)

Amos 1:1 "The words of Amos, who was **one of the sheep-breeders** from Tekoa, which he received in a vision concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah,...."

Amos 7:14-15 "Amos answered Amaziah, "I am not a prophet, nor do I belong to a company of prophets. **I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamores**, but the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Bible Scholar James Mays points out that Sycamore trees were abundant in certain places in Judah. The book of Kings compared Solomon's riches with the sycamores of the Shephelah: "The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and he made cedars as numerous as the sycamores of the Shephelah" (1 Kings 10:27). So sycamores were plentiful. Mays suggests that biblical sycamore trees were of the mulberry family producing a fig-like fruit; the species was abundant in the land at altitudes below the frostline on mountainsides. 'Dresser' (bōlēš) meant some kind of preparation work, cultivating or husbanding the tree- maybe treating the fruits to prevent pests or to quicken the ripening or sweetening process."

St Paul on God grafting Gentile Branch onto Jewish Tree of Faith-Righteousness

Romans 11:16-24 "If the firstfruits are holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place and have come to share in the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. If you do boast, consider that you do not support the root; the root supports you. Indeed you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is so. They were broken off because of unbelief, but you are there because of faith. So do not become haughty, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, [perhaps] he will not spare you either. See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God's kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off. And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated one, how much more will they who belong to it by nature be grafted back into their own olive tree.

The weather we share in common belongs to the exhortation to love enemies (Mt. 5:45). Birds and wild flowers warn us against anxiety (Mt. 6:25-33; Lk. 12:22-32).

Rural terrain around Galilee “Some of these suggest the rural terrain of Galilee -- sea and sea-shore, mountain, desert place and fields, whereas others reflect various forms of social grouping -- synagogue, house, village, boat. As the narrative progresses, various patterns begin to emerge in relation to the different locales. The desert is the place of quiet refreshment and prayer (1:35; 6:31); the mountain too is a place of quiet (6:46), but also of election and disclosure (3:13; 9:2). It is along the sea-shore that the crowd usually assembles (2:13; 3:7:4:1:5:21:6:34, 45,55), but it can appear elsewhere also: around the house (1:33:2:2,15; 5:24) or in a desert place (6:31).”