

“Ripening for Heaven”

I. Jesus comes the second time with a sickle in His hand to reap the harvest. Revelation 14:14-16

II. The Parable of man desiring ripe figs. Luke 13:6-10

A. He had been desiring fruit for 3 years. Verses 6 & 7 (fall of 27 AD to 30 AD).

B. The plea to dig around the tree to break up the hard soil. Verse 8

1. Trials =breaking up the routine of our life.

2. Allowing God to take away our heart of stone and give us a soft heart. Ezekiel 36:26&27

3. Only after we have been broken can we absorb the water of life and the supplements of the Spirit.

C. The plea to fertilize or add supplements Verse 8

1. Sour fruit from a lack of love/fear. 1 John 4:18, 1Peter 5:7, Psalm 55:22

2. Bitter fruit from bitter anger.

a. Anger is the 2nd emotion. Fear, Loss, or Frustration usually come first.

b. The supplement that is needed is the Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22&23

c. Forgiveness is a gift from God. Ask for it and receive it when the Holy Spirit gives it to you.

III. Patience is called for in James 5:7&8

A. God is patiently waiting for *US* to receive the early and latter rain. Verse 7

B. We are waiting to ripen (stablish our hearts) so that we will be ready for Christ's coming. Verse 8