



# ***THE VALUE-ADDED LIFE***

**Luke 13:6-9**

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**Woodland Park Church of Christ**

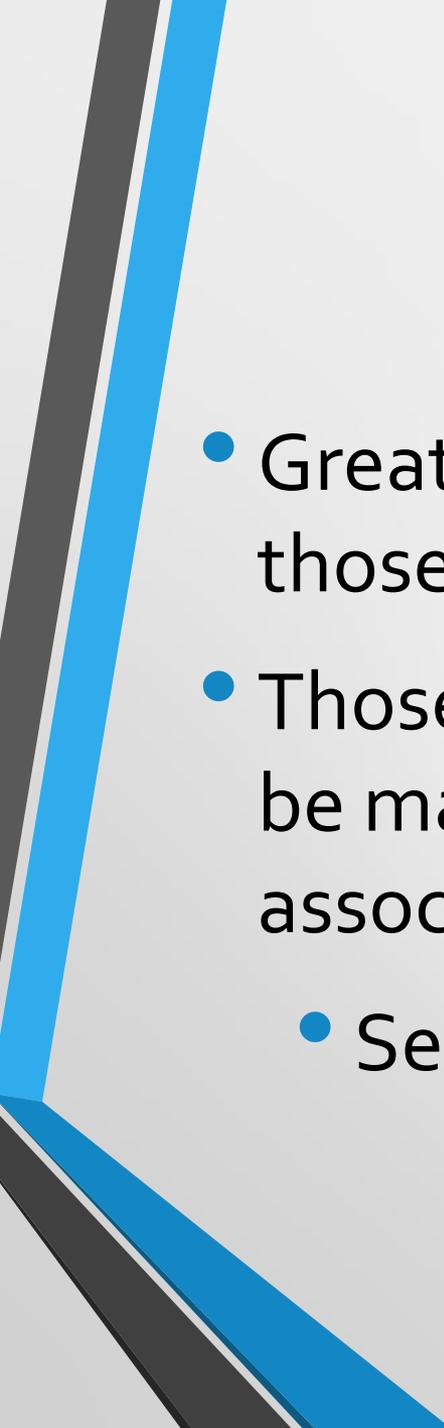
# INTRODUCTION

- In today's text, adding value and being of worth underpin the parable presented by the Lord.
- Vineyard owner approaches his fig tree.
- Finding a fruitless fig tree, he is disturbed and agitated.
- Expecting figs to be on a fig tree that's been around long enough to produce figs is not unreasonable.

# INTRODUCTION

**I really feel today's lesson can help make our relations better and shore them up, make our lives more meaningful, and lead us to a more secure place in the Lord.**

- Every organization, team, enterprise and congregation thrives when it has value-added members.
  - Persons who work to identify a purpose/role
  - Persons who faithfully carry out their duties
    - Not just when the spirit moves them
    - Not just when they are “in the mood”
    - Not merely when they feel like it
  - Persons willing to sacrifice for the good of the team

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- Great to add value to people in our lives and to those we care about
  - Those who depend on and work with us should be made better off as a result of our association
    - Seek to add value and be of worth

- **YOU WANT TO BE MISSED,  
TREASURED AND THOUGHT ABOUT,  
SIMPLY ADD VALUE IN YOUR SPACE.**
- **Home**
  - **Spouse**
  - **Children**
- **Occupation / vocation**
- **Associations**

# **WE ARE EXPECTED TO BE FRUITFUL (ADD VALUE IN THE KINGDOM)**

- We are the Lord's instruments to reach and change the world.
- When we do not work in the kingdom or use our talents to make a difference, the Lord is not pleased.

**Notice the message at the Great Separation and Final Judgment --**  
*as you did it to (or failed to do it to)*  
*one of the least of these My*  
*brethren, you did it (or did not do it)*  
*to Me. See Matthew 25:31-46*

# SISTER TRACY THOMAS' PRODUCTION

- Several months ago, Sister Tracy produced a one-sheeter that highlighted the benefits and the gains to be made when we all do our part
- Noted the old 20/80 rule – 20% of the people do 80% of the lifting (work)
- Posited a new approach 100 /100 Rule – 100% responsible for the total work results

**WORK MADE FUN GETS DONE!**

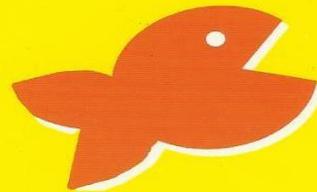
The NEW YORK TIMES bestseller



# FISH!



**A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale  
and Improve Results**



**Stephen C. Lundin, Ph.D.,  
Harry Paul, and John Christensen**

Foreword by Ken Blanchard, Ph.D., co-author of *The One Minute Manager*™

- Simple book analyzing the success of a Seattle “Fish House” that offers a four part plan to improve morale and boost performance.
  - BE THERE!
  - PLAY!
  - CHOOSE YOUR ATTITUDE!
  - **MAKE THEIR DAY!**

*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.*

**Matthew 5:13**

**Affect others positively . . . Just like seasoning in a stew (or your favorite dish).**

- Some of us behave as if life begins with and revolves around us!
- As if organizations and associations should consider themselves blessed because we decided to join them.
- Should ask ourselves, **“How can I make this relationship, team, congregation better.”**



- **PEOPLE CAN DO BAD BY THEMSELVES!**

- Family
- Clients
- Church members

# LEARNING FROM THE LORD

- Jesus drew a crowd everywhere he went, in large part because he added value to those around Him.
  - Addressed needs
  - Lifted burdens
  - Comforted hearts
  - Healed hurts

- The Lord was so popular because of the **spiritual and the physical value he added** that He often had to consciously seek solitary places to rest and pray.

*However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness to pray.*

**Luke 5:15-16**

# THE CHALLENGE THIS MORNING

## **1. FIND YOUR NICHE, ROLE, PURPOSE**

- Simply, what will I bring to the table, other than a hungry stomach and an empty plate
- Note that there is always something that can or need to be done

- We have a number of ministries at Woodland Park
  - Enough that essentially everyone can find one that interests them
- There is much to be done in our homes
  - Grooming and preparing our children to meet an increasingly evil and challenging world
  - Facilitating educational development
  - Meeting emotional, physical and spiritual needs

## **2. PERFORM TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY**

*Whatever your hands find to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. Ecclesiastes 9:10*

*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. Colossians 3:23*

## 3. BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE

- At the heart of successful relationships, homes and organizations are those who are willing to sacrifice for the good of the mission.
- Selfishness is the very antithesis of adding value.

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- In order to add value, we often have to shelve our wants and preferences to benefit others.
    - Good leaders often forego their preferences if it would send the wrong message
    - Good parents often delay their own gratification to make sure their children have what they need
    - Husbands give up on or delay owning sports cars and other toys

# THE SACRIFICE OF SACRIFICES

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

*Greater love has no man than this, that a man lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do whatever I command you. John 15:13-14*

# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- Be added to the Lord's body --

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17)

Believe (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7)

Repent (Acts 2:38)

Confess (Acts 8:36; Romans 10:10)

Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38) or

## Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**1 John 1:8-9**);  
or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**)



***May GOD richly bless you!***