

## “Ways”

Isaiah 55:1-9

Luke 13:6-9

- Re-read the Scriptures.
- When have you been glorified by other people?
  - How did it make you feel?
  - Did strangers recognize you?
  - Did it last long?
- And/or
- Tell of a time when you had to remove a tree or something that seemed permanent?
  - How did it make you feel?
  - Were you surprised that it had to be removed?
- As Jesus talked about the fig tree not producing as well as it should have, JD mentions how the type of soil would affect that... He also mentioned that it is important to recognize the soil that we are in, the conditions that surround us.
  - Do you recognize that fact when you're in the midst of a situation, or only afterwards?
  - How can we be better aware of the “soil” we're occupying?
  - How can we help each other in these times?
- Jesus “the Gardener” asks for more time and to be in relationship with us “the fig tree” when the Father “the Landowner” wanted to destroy it, in the parable that JD talked about.
  - How is your relationship with “the Gardener”?
  - How can it be better?
- JD told the story of James Blake and how he was so much better than any other High School tennis player that he actually beat an opponent in 15 minutes so he could get a tux for prom.
  - How much “more” is Jesus than anything else in your opinion?
  - Why do you think that?
  - How can we realize Jesus is better than anything else, and help others to see that?
- JD talked about the responses of the tree, if Jesus had told the story with a talking fig tree.
  - Blaming others – The Landowner, Soil, the Weather

- Comparing itself to other trees in the garden – “I’m not as bad as that tree over there”
- Denying the issue – “I’m fine, this is all I have to give”
- Entitled – “How dare you tell me what to do or how I’m supposed to be”
  - How do we respond if we’re the tree?
  - What is something we can do to improve our responses?
- Five years ago JD applied for his Nebraska’s Drivers License. Recently, he was told he could renew that license online, as long as “nothing has changed about your circumstances”. On the surface it appears that things haven’t changed, but he pointed out, that six years ago he didn’t know that DPC (his current church) even existed. He mentioned that in five years he can renew his license again online “if nothing has changed...”
  - What will change in the next five years for you?
  - How will you change because of your relationship with Christ?