

Sermon Questions: Growth and Change

Luke 13:6-9

1. Can you recall a positive change you wanted to make at some point in your life? Were you successful? What were the challenges to making that change happen?
2. Read Luke 13:6-9. The Olive Tree in the story was not “bearing fruit” in part because it was not growing. Fruit usually appears on the new growth section of the olive tree. No fruit means no new growth. How do you think this story applies to our lives and God’s expectations of us?
3. Pastor Mark suggests that personal pain can be a motivator for positive change. Sometimes we grow when we hurt enough that we have to. Share a time when you chose to “grow through your pain” instead of just “go through your pain?”
4. What sort of challenges or obstacles do you think often hold some people back from achieving their dreams and goals? Is there anything holding you back these days?
5. Pastor Mark suggests that love should motivate us to grow and change. We grow when we love enough that we want to. In what ways has love motivated you to grow and change?
6. Why is “spiritual laziness” a danger to our relationship with the Lord? Why do some Christians become complacent and casual in their devotion to God?
7. Pastor Mark talks about the importance of having a “Personal Growth Plan” that focuses on habits, attitudes, knowledge and skills you want to develop in order to become more fruitful for the Lord. Have you ever developed your own personal growth plan? What do you think about the idea?
8. Pastor Mark suggests if you don’t have a plan for personal growth, you’re not serious about personal growth. Do you agree? Why or Why not?
9. Why is it true that “life gets better when we get better”?
10. Is there an area in your life where you believe God is calling you to grow and change? Are you comfortable sharing that with the group so they can pray for you?