

To Ponder: Bruce Sanguin in *The Advance of Love*

Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vinedresser, ‘look here! For three years now I’ve come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’

In reply, the vinedresser said, ‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’”

“I am about to do a new thing,” says the prophet Isaiah on God’s behalf, “now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:19)

Theologically and ecclesiologicaly, we still act as though all the real action took place in Jerusalem two thousand years ago, and we’re just waiting for what God did back then in Jesus to play itself out. Well, it’s taking place right here, right now.

“No problem,” said Einstein, “can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.” Yes, the world is in trouble. Yes, there is injustice. Yes, there is war and violence. Yes, the planet is in serious trouble. But we need to bring to these problems a transformed self, a soul-full self, a Christ-animated self. We need, each of us in our own unique way, to put on the Heart and Mind of Christ. We need to know what Christ consciousness feels like from the inside before we continue our crusade to change the world.

Think of the voice of the gardener in the parable as the voice of the Christ—speaking to us at those moments when we’ve given up hope—in ourselves and in our congregations. It’s Christ’s voice, all right, speaking to us from the *future*, which needs us in order to emerge; speaking to us from the *past*, our roots reaching deep into the soil of tradition; speaking to us *now*, as the sap of the evolutionary impulse to grow, to bear fruit, to be God’s people in the world and for the world. By the grace of God, a Cosmic Gardener who is our gardener and advocate, our fruit bearing has just begun.

Reading: John Soos

To be of the earth is to know
the restlessness of being a seed
the darkness of being planted
the struggle toward the light
the pain of growth into the light
the joy of bursting and bearing fruit
the love of being food for someone
the scattering of your seeds
the decay of the seasons
the mystery of death
and the miracle of birth



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...

You Raise Me Up by Josh Groban

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary;
When troubles come and my heart burdened be;
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence,
Until you come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

There is no life – no life without its hunger;
Each restless heart beats so imperfectly;
But when you come and I am filled with wonder,
Sometimes, I think I glimpse eternity.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains;
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas;
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders;
You raise me up... To more than I can be.

The joy of bursting and bearing fruit



Our prayer is characterized
by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

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