

Barren Fig-Tree: Excerpt from a Sermon by John Bunyan

John Bunyan (author of *Pilgrim's Progress*) preached a sermon in 1673 on Luke 13:6–9, stressing the limits of God's forbearance—a prominent theme in 2 Peter.

Barren Fig-tree, Dost thou hear?
the Ax is laid to thy roots,
the Lord Jesus prays God to spare thee;
Hath he been digging about thee?
Hath he been dunging of thee?
O Barren Fig-tree, Now thou art come
to the point;
if thou shalt now become good,
if thou shalt after a gracious manner
suck in the Gospel-dung,
and if thou shalt bring forth fruit unto
God . . . Well!
But if not, the fire is the last.
Fruit or the Fire!
Fruit or the Fire, Barren Fig-tree!