



# THE Best IS YET TO COME

## The Best Is Yet to Come: The Parable of the Fig Tree

October 9-10, 2021

**Speaker:** Pastor Joel Schmidgall

**Scripture:** Luke 13:6-9

### Series Overview:

We live at the intersection of two theologies, two realities. The faithfulness of God is pursuing from the past—SO FAR SO GOD. And the sovereignty of God is setting us up for the future. We live forwards, but God is working backward. God is ordering our footsteps. God is preparing good works. We live in a fallen world, a broken world, but heaven is invading earth right here, right now.

We don't believe in happily ever after. We believe in something so much bigger and better and longer—happily FOREVER after. THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

### Series Discussion Questions:

Where do I see God at work in my life?

### Message Overview:

The parable of the fig tree reveals the hidden truths of becoming who God desires us to become. He has made us not to merely exist, but to produce and provide wonderful fruit to our surroundings. It's a story in which we find great points of learning in the process of becoming: \*Patience and urgency \*Growing through challenge \*Purpose in the places we're planted \*A promise in need of activation. It's ultimately a story that leads us to faith through repentance. We hope you'll join us this week as we pray for guidance from the Spirit of God as we seek out the best that is yet to come.

### Message-Specific Discussion Questions:

What does the statement, "the best is yet to come" mean to me when the trials of life come?

Where are you on the hope spectrum? Do you have no hope, lost hope, false hope or authentic hope?

### Your tree is planted with purpose

- **Read Luke 13:6-9** -- the parable of the fig tree

- This current story Jesus shares, shows a unique situation; a *fig tree* that has been intentionally placed...in of all places, a vineyard
- When have you felt out of place, unique or unqualified?

### **The master is patient & He is urgent**

- Read Isaiah 5:1-7
- In the story, where do you see God with a sense of patience, but also a sense of urgency?
- Where do you know you need to be producing or seeking a sense of urgency...now?

### **The vinedresser cares deeply for the tree**

- Reflect on James 1:2-4. God does not want us to “lack anything”. He encourages us to keep our eyes on the mature fruit only he can bring forth, and to seek it joyfully.
- Jesus is mediating for us at the right hand of the Father

### **The tree has to be pruned**

- Read Luke 13:8
- God uses the uncomfortable to produce growth
- Consider asking “God, how can I be built up through this \_\_\_\_\_? (*insert your situation; hardship, circumstance, choices, etc.*)?”

### **Activation leads to production**

- Read James 1:2-4
- What gifts in your life need to be activated?
- Where in your life do you need to take action to promote growth?

### **Repentance to God is not about our sins. It is about his transformation power! A metamorphosis! A miracle! A calling to be made into who we are meant to be!**

- Read Luke 13:5 again & reflect on yourself as the fig tree
- Repentance often brings thoughts of turning away from wrongs, but God shows us it’s about turning towards what is better! For what we were made to be and to grow.
- How do you look at repentance? Consider an authentic hope & God’s calling for you to produce good fruit in your life and for others.

*Saying that ‘the best is yet to come’ is more than a wishful statement,  
it’s a declaration of an authentic hope!  
Declarations of hope need an activation of faith!  
A continuous turning (repentance) and growth toward maturity in Christ*

**Prayer:** God, renew in me an authentic hope. Thank you for making me unique. Thank you for another chance to repent and turn towards you so that I can produce good fruit for the kingdom of God.

### **Practical Application**

- o Take time to sit quietly and reflect on where God has placed us to bear fruit. Write down where you are productive. Write down where you believe God wants you to grow and mature. Spend time listening to what God has to share about his love as the vinedresser in your life.
- o Plug into a small group. [ncc.re/groups](http://ncc.re/groups). Connect with others that are growing and activating their faith. Know that you are not alone!
- o Start the day in a prayerful virtual gathering by joining the [Upper Zoom](#) each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:14am. **Register at** [ncc.re/UpperZoom](http://ncc.re/UpperZoom)