



Dear Seattle: Jesus Loves You (Part 11)

FOUR Tamarisk Tree Takeaways

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SERIES TEXT: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - Jesus, John 3:16 NIV

SERIES BIG IDEA: Jesus lovingly came, died and rose again to save you.

- "Are you tuned in, my friend?" - Donald A. McGavran, 20th Century Missiologist and Founding Dean of the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary
- Who's an example of someone 100 percent "tuned in?"
- Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God. And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines for a long time. Genesis 21:33-34 NIV
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THREE Ways Abraham "Tuned In"

- 1) PLANT "Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba..." (v.33a)
- 2) PRAY "He called upon the name of the Lord, the Eternal God." (v. 33b)
- 3) PERSEVERE "And Abraham stayed... for a long time." (v. 34)

FOUR Tamarisk Tree Takeaways

- 1) A Tamarisk Tree is an extremely slow growing tree. Planting a tamarisk tree was a sign of Abraham's confident assurance in God's promise to provide **a place of rest for future generations**. e.g., The Child: (v. 2) Isaac came 25 years after God promised
 - 2) A Tamarisk Tree is an extremely hardy tree. Planting a tamarisk tree in hard times of arguing and disagreeing was Abraham proving his faith in God to provide **a shaded place to cool things down and not to heat them up**. e.g., The Peace Treaty: (vv. 25-27)
 - 3) A Tamarisk Tree requires a tremendous amount of water. Planting a tamarisk tree in the desert was an act of steadfast security indicating Abraham **believed that by remaining deeply rooted in God he could persevere through the difficult desert conditions**. e.g., The Well and Water Supply: (v. 30)
 - 4) Certain Tamarisk Tree species have been known to be medicinal. Planting a tamarisk tree prayer in faith was, supremely, Abraham pointing to the hope of Jesus and unleashing His healing to the nations.
- And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2b NIV.
 - "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David..." Revelation 22:16 NIV
 - "I am the true vine... **Remain** in me, and I will **remain** in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must **remain** in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you **remain** in me. If you **remain** in me and my words [rhema] **remain** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." - Jesus, John 15:1a, 4, 7 NIV

Are you tuned in, my friend? Will you plant a tamarisk tree prayer in faith?

SALVATION PRAYER

Dear Jesus, I repent of my sin. Please be my Savior and Lord. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

FIVE Ways to Think Outside the Four Walls: How a 96-Year Young Calvary Can Help all Generations Find and Follow Jesus

- I. Do we want to know them? Yes! Jesus loves Seattle, so we love Seattle.
- II. Are we willing to go where they are? Yes! Jesus always begins by going where the lost people are.
- III. Are we willing to spend time with them? Yes! Jesus engages in the ministry of conversation, speaks the truth in love, and listens well.
- IV. Do we want to welcome outsiders inside the four walls of Calvary? Yes! Jesus extends His compassion, care, and lovingly treats outsiders with respect.
- V. Do we want Calvary to be their church too? Yes! Jesus welcomes everyone into His Church who will accept Him as Savior and Lord.

"The true Church is the only society on earth that exists for its nonmembers."

- William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury