

Edward Church

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# **UNFORGIVENESS and the SYCAMINE TREE**

**Luke 17:1-6**



# ***LUKE 17:1-6***

***IF YE HAD FAITH AS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED,***

***YE MIGHT SAY UNTO THIS SYCAMINE TREE,***

***BE THOU PLUCKED UP BY THE ROOT,***

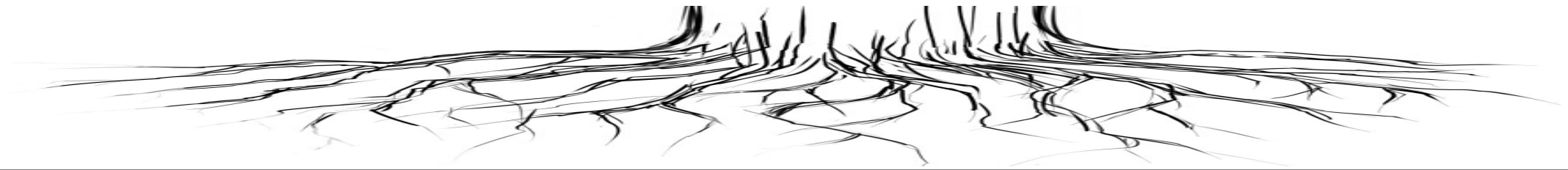
***AND BE THOU PLANTED IN THE SEA;***

***AND IT SHOULD OBEY YOU***



## ***LUKE 17:1-6***

**<sup>1</sup> Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe *unto him*, through whom they come! <sup>2</sup> It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. <sup>5</sup> And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.**



# Luke 17:1-6



## **Jesus was Teaching His Disciples About...**

- Offenses –Complex/ Complete
- Bitterness/ Unforgiveness –Complex/ Complete
- Likened Forces to the Sycamine Tree
- How to Remove These Evil Forces From One's Life

## **By Understanding the Sycamine Tree, ...Understand Bitterness and Unforgiveness.**

*“...If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed..say unto **This sycamine tree**, Be thou plucked up by the root planted in the sea...obey you.”*

## **The Word “*this*” Indicates that...**

**...Jesus was Pointing Out Something Very Specific to Them**

# Sycamine Tree

**Forgiving Once is Already a Challenge... But  
...Forgive Someone Seven Times in One Day Sounds Impossible**

- **This Statement was the Equivalent of Saying,**  
*“Lord, we don’t know if we have enough faith to forgive so many times in one day. You’ll have to increase our faith if we’re going to do this seven times in one day!”*
- **When Jesus Used the Word “This,” He was Saying,**  
*“Bitterness and unforgiveness are just like the sycamine tree - and if you really want to be free of these attitudes, you can speak to this menacing growth in your life / command it to be planted in the sea!”*

# **Sycamine Tree**

**Before We Can Understand What Jesus Taught About...**

**...Getting Rid of Bitterness and Unforgiveness,**

**Understand Why He Used the Sycamine Tree to Illustrate...**

**...These Destructive Forces.**

**• Why He Didn't Use an Oak Tree, Apple Tree, Palm Tree?**

**Look at the Characteristics of the Sycamine Tree...**

**...to Compre-hend Why Jesus Used this Tree**

**...to Symbolize the Detrimental Effects of**

**...Bitterness and Unforgiveness in a Person's Life**

# **Syc. Had Very Large/ Deep Root Structure**

## **The Sycamine Tree was Known For...**

- deep root structure
- grew to a height of 30 ft+
- difficult to kill -Hot weather/ blistering temperatures
- tapped into a water source down deep under the earth.

## **Even Cutting It to Its Base Would Not Guarantee Its Death**

- Its Roots, Hidden Deep Under the Ground
- Would Draw From Underground Sources of Water
- Enabling It to Keep Resurfacing Again / Again

## **In Other Words...**

**...This Tree Was Very Difficult to Get Rid Of**

# **Syc. Had Very Large/ Deep Root Structure**

## **Jesus Used this Tree as Ex. of Bitterness/ Unforgiveness**

Like the Sycamine Tree, Bitterness/ Unforgiveness

...Must Be Dealt w- at the Roots Or

... They Will Keep Springing Up

## **Roots of Bitterness/ Unforgiveness Go Down Deep in the Soul**

- fed by any offense hidden in the soil of the heart
- source of offense will cause these evil forces to resurface...  
...over and over again.

**It Takes a Deci-sion to Rip Those Roots of Bitterness/ Offense Out of Heart Once / For All So They Can't Grow Back in the Future**



# **Syc. Wood was Preferred Wood for Caskets**

## **In Middle East, the Sycamine Tree was the Preferred for Caskets**

- grew quickly/ any environment
- accessible in many different places
- grew best in dry conditions

## **The Sycamine Tree is Ideal for Portraying Bitterness/ Unforgiveness**

- **Just as the Sycamine Tree Grew Very Quickly...**

**...So Does Bitterness and Unforgiveness**

**Quickly getting Out of Control/ Take Over the Whole Place!**

**...Not Only Spoil the Condition of Heart/ Ruin Relationships**

- **Just as Sycamine Grew Easily in any Environment, so does Bitterness.**

**It Matters Not Where you are From, Live, or Position in Life...**

**...Bitterness/ Unforgiveness Grow/ Influence Hearts Every-where**

# **Syc. Wood was Preferred Wood for Caskets**

## **It Grew Best Where Little Rain Fell / Water Was Sparse**

- Just like Bitterness/ Unforgiveness?
- Negative Attitudes Flourish where Spiritually Dry Conditions Exist
- Bitterness/ Unforgiveness Grow/ Blossom where there is No Repentance,  
**No Joy/ No Fresh Rain of the Spirit**

## **Sycamine Wood was the Preferred Wood for Building Caskets**

- **It tells us that Bitterness/ Unforgiveness are Deadly**

Harboring bitterness will spiritually bury you quicker than anything else!

These attitudes are the materials that Satan uses to put you 6 ft under!

**Stress Point:** *If you permit bitterness / unforgiveness to grow in your life, it won't be long until these attitudes have killed your joy, stolen your peace, and canceled out your spiritual life!*

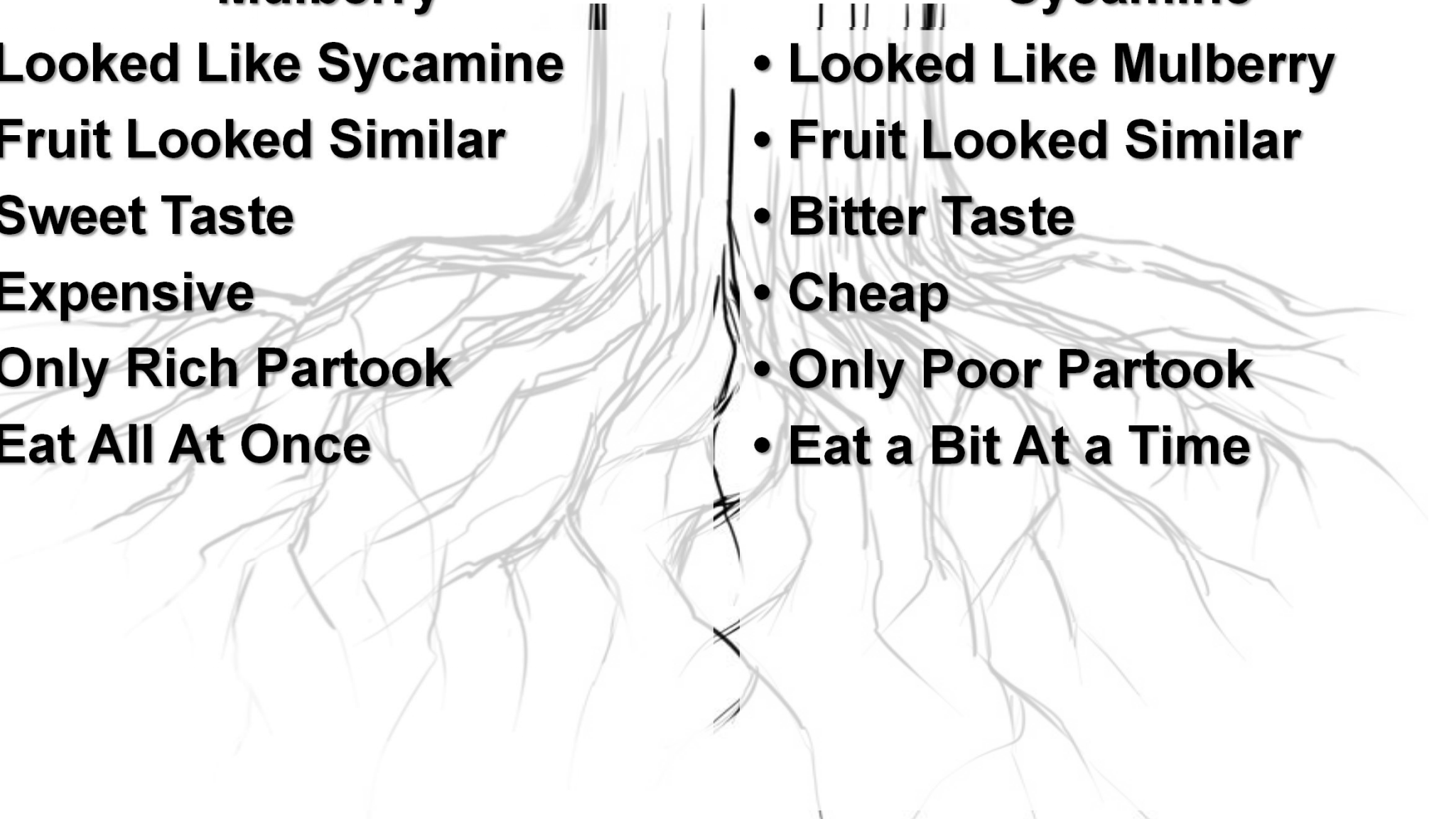
# **Syc. Produced a Fig that Was Very Bitter to Eat**

## **Mulberry**

- **Looked Like Sycamine**
- **Fruit Looked Similar**
- **Sweet Taste**
- **Expensive**
- **Only Rich Partook**
- **Eat All At Once**

## **Sycamine**

- **Looked Like Mulberry**
- **Fruit Looked Similar**
- **Bitter Taste**
- **Cheap**
- **Only Poor Partook**
- **Eat a Bit At a Time**



# Syc. Tree was Pollinated Only by Wasps



**The Sycamine Tree Was Not Naturally Pollinated  
The Pollina-tion Process Was...**

- Initiated by a Wasp Only
- Stuck Its Stinger Right into the Heart of the Fruit

**Ever Heard a Bitter Person Say:**

- *“I’ve been stung by that person once, but I’m not going to be stung again!”*
- *“They hurt me so badly, I’ll never let him get close enough to sting me again!”*

**People who make such a statement have been “stung” by a situation that the devil especially devised to pollinate their hearts/ souls with bitterness/ unforgiveness.**

# Solution to the Pollution

To Rid This, You Need Faith the Size of “*a grain of mustard seed*”

- **See It**
  - Acknowledge the Problem (*offense*)
  - Act Upon the Process
- **Say It**
  - Speak to the Problem (*be ye removed*)
- **Seize It**
  - Seal the Deal (*cast into the sea*)



# If You Need Another Reason

Father, forgive them,  
they know not  
what they do.

Luke 23.34

