

13. The 'owner' of the fig tree

As part of a Zoom Bible study, we looked at this simple tale about a figless fig tree in Luke 13.6-9. Our explorations, lit by the Black Lives Matter movement and news of unequal effects of Covid-19 in BAME communities, led us to see here (as we'd never seen before) a powerful investigation of competing explanations of fruitlessness, that richly echoed modern-day attitudes to the black experience in the UK. Jesus does not go with the 'owners'.

John Campbell

'AURELIA'
Samuel S Wesley

C F C C G7 C

1. The 'own - er' of the fig tree in
 2. The Gard - 'ner in the sto - ry then
 3. The sto - ry Je - sus of - fers, if
 4. To - day, we need this sto - ry to

Dm7 C G7 C G7 C Eaug

Je - sus' fig tree tale was clear the tree was
 asked to call a halt; what if this fig - less
 we have ears to hear, pro - vides a heart - felt
 help us think a - gain, when some are set for

Fdim7 F Em F G C D G

use - less, no good to him at all. A
 fail - ure was not the fig tree's fault? He
 chal - lenge to things we may think clear; when
 fail - ure, whilst oth - ers just con - demn; Let's

C G C F C Am

fig tree that is fig - less does
 prom - ised new re - sour - ces, new
 we think like the 'own - er', and
 re - con - struct our nur - ture, let's

Am E7 Am A Dm G C F C

not de - serve its place: "Re - move this mon - strous
 care, with new man - ure, "Per - haps, we failed the
 blame, con - demn, re - move, we crush all hope of
 give each fig their chance, let's show all fig trees

F Dm7 C G C

fail - ure, it's just a waste of space!"
 fig tree, let's try to find a cure!"
 jus - tice and shut down truth and love.
 mat - ter, let fruit - ful - ness ad - vance!