

Covenant Life

• **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY** at 3pm where we will celebrate our 52nd anniversary.
- Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- *Prayer Request - Please pray and fast this week for our special Community intention. We have an urgent need for God's intervention. May His good and perfect will be done!*
- Registration for CAMP JESUS (June 9-13) is OPEN. Register [here](#) or contact camp-jesus@GodsDelight.org.
- In the month of May we plan to shift our meeting pattern to the 1st and 3rd Sundays to allow more time with our families on Mother's Day.
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise [here](#), donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

The readings today continue the Lenten theme of repentance. As soon as I heard the Gospel passage concerning the fig tree, I remembered that this is not my favorite parable. We know that Jesus often used parables to teach His followers in a semiabstract way. Much has been written about His parables as they continue to be unpacked. We too are strongly encouraged to meditate and reflect on each parable and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us individually. This is one of the powerful aspects of parables rather than teaching truths as Jesus' did in His sermons.

In the Gospel today Jesus twice proclaims "*But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!*" He followed this strong exhortation with the parable of the fig tree.

When we meditate on God's Word, it is prudent to imagine ourselves as each character in the scene as well as an observer. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach us what He has for us today. One of the reasons this is not a favorite parable is that when I contemplate myself as the fig tree and God as the owner, I cower at the thought of God giving up on me. While I can comfort myself with reinterpreting the scene with God as the gardener, I am forced to recall that Jesus appears to

have offered this parable immediately following His strongest words mandating repentance.

Worth reflecting on is that Jesus' exhortation to repentance is not presented in a 'fire and brimstone' context but rather in the context of hope! The Divine gardener is calling for pardon and patience, offering time and resources...Hope!

Today, and throughout this Lenten season, we can claim this reprieve and ask ourselves what kind of fruit do we bear? Are we ready to be judged? What tilling of the soil are we in need of? What fertilizer need we invest in to cooperate with the harvest expectations that God has for us?

Our response may very well entail a time of real repentance, and the sacrament of reconciliation for Catholics. It will likely entail a recommitment to activities which open us up to the Holy Spirit such as increasing the time we spend in daily prayer and in reading His Word. But since God is speaking to us directly (as He did to Moses in the [First Reading](#)) we must not disengage from our time of meditation without being open to a very specific and personal encouragement. Maybe there is something concrete in us that God is asking us to turn from, something that limits His ability to work in and through us. This is what Lent is all about.

God has a very specific call for each of us. He wants to save every soul. He wants to work through the love we have for Him and the love we have for one another. He is tilling the soil around us. He is fertilizing the soil around us. Are we bearing the most abundant fruit that we can? What is holding us back?

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, You are truly the Divine Gardener, and I am in need of Your care. I ask for Your pardon. I ask for the time to respond. Please continue to invest in me. Please reveal Yourself to me as I turn to You. Please send forth Your Holy Spirit to cleanse me of all that holds me back from producing the good fruit that You call me to produce. I truly love You and commit to deepening my relationship with You. I love those You send my way and recommit to loving every person in my life through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen."

God Bless,
David