

The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Lord, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

As we take this text into ourselves we find that the text is taking us into itself. For the world of the text is far larger and more real than our minds and experience...

This text is God-revealing: God-creating, God-saving, God blessing ... There is always more to anything, any word or sentence than meets the eye.”

(Eugene Peterson, *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*).

HEARING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!*

You have the words of eternal life!

We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect & share on some of the following:

1. What do you like about this passage? What surprises you?
2. What is the issue for the people who come to Jesus? What is the real issue for Jesus?
3. In the parable which follows, the owner of the vineyard and the gardener see things in different ways. What is the difference in their approach to the fig tree?

HAPPENING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!*

In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

We read the passage again and reflect on some of the following:

1. “*you will all perish as they did...*”
What are the things that cause us to perish, that take our life away?
2. “*Why should it be wasting the soil?*”
Who is considered a waste of space in our society?
3. “*Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it...*”
Who invests in those whom others see as a ‘waste of space’?
Who trusts in their potential and promise?
4. “*If it bears fruit next year...*”
What in our lives bore fruit only after a long time?

