

Space for God Repent & Turn

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Colossians 1:6

WORSHIP

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this:

"I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts."

Isaiah 57:15

CONFESSION

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down.

Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to him,

"Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises."

Hosea 14:1-2

MEDITATION – Luke 13:1-9*

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God. And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too."

Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.'

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest I welcome God's healing and renewal.

"The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.'"

ANCHORING PRAYER

I turn my heart to You.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

When was I repentant and turned to God?

In what way have I been "taking up space in the garden"?

WISDOM

As workers who tend a fig tree are allowed to eat the fruit, so workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded.

Proverbs 27:18

A tree is identified by its fruit. Figs are never gathered from thornbushes, and grapes are not picked from bramble bushes.

Luke 6:44

The fruits of your life come only after the plow has carved through your land. God wants you to be fruitful.

-Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

**May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation
–the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ–
for this will bring much glory and praise to God.**

[Amen]

Philippians 1:11

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.