

The Urgency of Conversion – Don't Wait for "Someday"

We all have that one thing we keep postponing:

- "I'll start eating healthy... next Monday."
- "I'll call my mom... tomorrow."
- "I'll go to Confession... soon."

In today's Gospel from **Luke 13:1-9**, Jesus tells us: "You don't have forever. Repent now."

This passage challenges our modern "someday" mindset. We live in a world of procrastination—delaying commitments, ignoring responsibilities, and postponing our spiritual growth. But Jesus is clear: conversion is urgent.

The News, Tragedy, and the "Why Did This Happen?" Question

At the beginning of the Gospel, people ask Jesus about two tragic events:

1. **Pilate's massacre of Galileans**—a shocking act of state-sponsored violence.
2. **The collapse of the Tower of Siloam**—a tragic accident that killed 18 people.

They want answers: "Did these people suffer because they were more sinful than others?"

It's a timeless question we still ask today:

- A natural disaster hits: "Is this a punishment from God?"
- A young person dies suddenly: "Was this meant to be?"
- Someone suffers terribly: "What did they do to deserve this?"

But Jesus flips the question back on them: "Do you think they were worse sinners than others? No. But unless you repent, you will perish as they did."

Translation? Stop asking why bad things happen—start asking if your soul is ready when they do.

The Church Fathers on This Passage

St. Augustine gives us a wake-up call:

"We all live under a sentence of death. Some die suddenly, others later, but what matters is not when we die—but how we are prepared to meet God when we do."

St. Cyril of Alexandria adds:

"Jesus does not say that those who perished were innocent, but He does teach us that rather than judging others, we should focus on our own repentance."

A Fig Tree on Life Support

Jesus follows with a parable about a **fig tree that won't bear fruit**.

- The owner wants to cut it down.
- The gardener says: "Give it one more year. I'll fertilize it and take care of it. If it still doesn't bear fruit, then cut it down."

Who's the owner? **God**.

Who's the gardener? **Jesus**.

Who's the fig tree? **Us**.

God is patient—but not forever.

Think of it like being on **spiritual life support**.

- The doctor (Jesus) says: "You need treatment."
- We say: "I feel fine. I'll get serious about my health later."
- The doctor says: "You don't have unlimited time."

Jesus is the divine gardener—He nourishes us with grace, sacraments, and second chances. But eventually, if we remain spiritually barren, the time of mercy turns into the time of judgment.

A Real-Life Example: The "Someday" Trap

There's a famous quote: "The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

People don't wake up one day and say: "I think I'll ruin my soul today!"

No—it happens gradually.

Take the example of **Joe**, a 30-year-old Catholic who keeps postponing his spiritual life:

- "I'll go to Mass next Sunday." → But then he gets busy.
- "I'll go to Confession before Easter." → But then he's embarrassed.
- "I'll start praying again... soon." → But then months turn into years.

Then tragedy hits—a car accident, a sudden illness. He never got around to it.

St. John Chrysostom warns:

"The devil's greatest trick is not to make us reject God outright, but to convince us we have plenty of time to get right with Him."

The Power of Small Changes

Many people struggle with change because they think it has to be all or nothing. But in therapy, we encourage small, daily actions—little steps that lead to transformation.

Lent is like a spiritual therapy program:

- ✔ Step 1: Acknowledge the problem. (*Am I putting off conversion?*)
- ✔ Step 2: Make a small change. (*Pray 5 minutes a day. Go to Confession.*)
- ✔ Step 3: Be consistent. (*Stop waiting for the perfect moment—start now.*)

How to Avoid Being a Fruitless Fig Tree

- 1 Stop Procrastinating on Your Soul – If you need Confession, prayer, or reconciliation, don't wait until "later." Later may never come.
- 2 Bear Fruit in Small Ways – You don't have to become a saint overnight. But start bearing good fruit in your daily life—kindness, forgiveness, generosity.
- 3 Recognize God's Mercy—But Don't Abuse It – God is patient, but His patience isn't an excuse for laziness.

God is Offering You One More Year—Use It Well

Think about Jesus' parable:

The fig tree had one more year.

This Lent could be your "one more year."

St. Gregory the Great warns:

"If we neglect the mercy of God today, we may find that tomorrow, mercy has turned into judgment." (*Moral Reflections on Job, 18.23*)

So what's your excuse?

- ✔ Too busy? (*But you make time for Netflix.*)
- ✔ Too ashamed? (*God already knows your sins—He just wants to forgive them.*)
- ✔ Too late? (*Not yet. You still have today.*)

Lent is the season of second chances. But don't wait too long.

Because someday... there won't be a "next year" for the fig tree. 🌿⌚

Blessed Lent—don't be a fruitless tree! 🌿 😊 🙏