



Rosary Reflections

The Call to Repentance and the Fig Tree

According to the Gospel of Luke

Introduction

Jesus came to reunite the lost children of Israel and humanity with God and to restore the Reign of God on earth.

Human sin separates us from God. The way back to God is to repent (change from sinful behavior) and believe in Jesus.

Lent is a special season that allows God to "dig around and fertilize" our spiritual roots so that we'll be made right with God.

What to Remember

This Gospel story depicts Jesus teaching his disciples readiness to be right with God since our time on earth can end when we least expect it.

God is both Judge and merciful savior, but we need to make a choice to live for God. Like the gardener, God gives us second and third chances. Yet, there is an urgency to follow God's ways today.

God calls us to bear fruit with our lives and gives us the resources to grow. God will provide what we need to drop sin and live a fruit-filled life.

What to Pray For

- For a greater openness to God's gardening methods in our lives.
- That the world may be a garden of peace, love and goodwill for all humans.
- For those whose lives are stuck in a wasteland and need God's transforming touch.
- That society will value the roles of farmers, and for greater yield in places of scarcity and famine,

Feel free to pray the rosary using the Gospel when you want more grace, and the personal care of God to help you endure and grow in dry times.

The Five Decades

When you pray the five decades of this Gospel Rosary Reflection, read these the Scripture passages for each decade before you start praying it.

The Decades contain the entire Gospel passage. The verses are listed in parentheses after the decade name. For example, Luke 13:1-3 are the verses that describe the treachery of Pilate.

Decade 1: The Cruelty of Pilate (Luke 13:1-3)

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

Decade 2: The Tower of Siloam (Luke 13:4-5)

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

Decade 3: Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13:6)

And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,

Decade 4: The Owner's Displeasure (Luke 13:7)

he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'

Decade 5: The Gardener's Hope (Luke 13:8-9)

'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.'