

Lenten Themes

REPENTENCE – 3/6/10

Luke 13:1-9 (New International Version)

Luke 13

Repent or Perish

1Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2**Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? **3**I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. **4**Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? **5**I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. **7**So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

8" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. **9**If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

FASTING – 3/13/10

Matthew 6;16-18

¹⁶ 'When you are fasting, do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they go about looking unsightly to let people know they are fasting. In **truth** I tell you, they have had their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, put scent on your head and wash your face,

¹⁸ so that no one **will** know you are **fasting** except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in **secret will** reward you.

Matthew 9: 14-17

¹⁴ Then John's disciples came to him and said, 'Why is it that we and the **Pharisees** fast, but your disciples do not?'

¹⁵ Jesus replied, 'Surely the bridegroom's attendants cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is still with them? But the **time will** come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they **will** fast.

¹⁶ No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth onto an old cloak, because the patch pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse.

¹⁷ Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, the wine runs out, and the skins are lost. No; they put new wine in fresh skins and both are preserved.'

PRAYER – 3/20/10

Mark 14:35-36

³⁵ And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by.

³⁶ 'Abba, Father!' he said, 'For you everything is possible. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

ALMSGIVING – 3/27/10

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ But remember: anyone who sows sparsely **will** reap sparsely as well -- and anyone who sows generously **will** reap generously as well.

⁷ Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God** loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ God is perfectly able to enrich you with every grace, so that you always have enough for every conceivable need, and your resources overflow in all kinds of **good** work.

⁹ As **scripture** says: To the needy he gave without stint, his uprightness stands firm for ever.

¹⁰ The one who so freely provides seed for the sower and food to eat **will** provide you with ample store of seed for sowing and make the harvest of your uprightness a bigger one:

¹¹ you **will** be rich enough in every way for every kind of generosity that makes people thank **God** for what we have done.

¹² For the help provided by this contribution not only satisfies the needs of God's holy people, but also overflows into widespread thanksgiving to God;

¹³ because when you have proved your **quality** by this help, they **will** give **glory** to **God** for the **obedience** which you show in professing the gospel of Christ, as well as for the generosity of your fellowship towards them and towards all.

¹⁴ At the same time, their **prayer** for you **will** express the affection they feel for you

because of the unbounded [grace](#) [God](#) has given you.

¹⁵ Thanks be to [God](#) for his gift that is beyond all telling!

EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY - 4/3/10 THE PASSION OF
CHRIST, Ridgefield Playhouse

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – 4/10/10

John 20: 19-31

¹⁹ In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. [Jesus](#) came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,'

²⁰ and, after saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord,

²¹ and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

²² After saying this he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit.

²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you retain anyone's sins, they are retained.

²⁴ Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when [Jesus](#) came.

²⁵ So the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord,' but he answered, 'Unless I can see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

²⁶ Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but [Jesus](#) came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said.

²⁷ Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Do not be unbelieving any more but believe.'

²⁸ Thomas replied, 'My [Lord](#) and my God!'

²⁹ Jesus said to him: You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

³⁰ There were many other signs that [Jesus](#) worked in the sight of the disciples, but they are not recorded in this book.

³¹ These are recorded so that you may believe that [Jesus](#) is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have [life](#) through his name.

