



3/24/19 Lk. 13: 1-9 & Ex. 3: 1-8a, 13-15

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#### **ENTERING THE SCENE:**

The remains of the tower pictured here give a hint of fate of those it fell upon. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time has always caused people to doubt their control over the forces in life. Had Jesus been there when the mud slides hit CA this month, some would ascribe it to the sinful lifestyle of those living there. But Jesus urges discretion before making judgments and uses the fig tree as an example. He invites us to “dig” deeper into the cause of things. He suggests that extra care needs to be given before giving up. This Lent offers another opportunity to do some hoeing and fertilizing so that we can bear good fruit.

#### **LUKE 13:1-9**

1 At that time some were present who told Jesus about the **Galileans** whose **blood Pilate** had mixed with their **sacrifices**. 2 He said in reply: "Do you think that these **Galileans** were the greatest **sinners** in **Galilee** just because they **suffered** this? By no means! 3 But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you **reform**. 4 Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling **tower** in **Siloam**. Do you think they were more **guilty** than anyone else who lived in **Jerusalem**? 5 Certainly not! But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you begin to **reform**."

6 Jesus spoke this parable: "A man had a **fig tree** growing in his **vineyard**, and he came out looking for **fruit** on it but did not find any. 7 He said to the **vinedresser**, 'Look here! For **three years**

now I have come in **search** of **fruit** on this **fig tree** and found none. **Cut it down**. Why should it **clutter** up the ground?" 8 In answer, the man said, 'Sir, leave it another year while I **hoe** around it and **manure** it; 9 then perhaps it will bear **fruit**. If not, it shall be **cut down**.'"

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Lent is a time for digging and hoeing so that the new growth has a weed free place to emerge. How are you doing in preparing your soul soil for the new that God is preparing for you this Easter?

**PRAYER:** Gardener Jesus, you know how much work it takes to encourage fruitfulness. You are patient and skillful in guiding me to whatever I need in order to awaken me to a full life in faith. In those times when I or others are tempted to give up on me, help me to remember these words of yours today. Amen.