This Weeks Edition:
Forgiven, Healed and Redeemed

DID YOU KNOW?
Jesus tells the parable of the fruitless fig tree to remind us of the importance of repentance in order to receive forgiveness and healing. Repentance is about a fundamental change of mind and a commitment of seeing things not as humans do but as God does. God is the patient and merciful gardener, who will not leave us alone as we work to turn our hearts around and produce good fruit. God will encourage us through what is life-long work.

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“A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. One day he went out to pick some figs but he didn’t find any. So he said to the gardener, “For three years I have come looking for figs on this tree, and I haven’t found anything yet. Chop it down! Why should it take up space?”

“The gardener answered, ‘Master, leave it for another year. I’ll dig around it and put some manure on it to make it grow. Maybe it will have figs on it next year. If it doesn’t, you can have it cut down.”

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Gospel Reflection

I wonder why the gardener gave the fig tree a second chance...

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I wonder who is most like me in this story...

____________________________________________________________________

I wonder how it feels to be given a second chance like the fig tree...

____________________________________________________________________
Living a Fruitful Life: Word Search

KEQJOSELEHDIGGA
ZQDTHJCAAIAYLPL
QUBOGZRTLOOKJAOWLDALVINEYARDTRN
WEEDPTRCSLXJLAE
ZKXRXHLOXBKSPBV
FRUITRVHKRBQLV
VVYLFERLIZIEEWEW
KGPUDEKAFXOLPZA
HRKTSLYARSSFODGE
MTUSDEYQLCNNUEN
FCIGOOWOEMIRKGRG
SSBFKIWLAFLTLIZ
ILILMANLNVDSPVCFZ
PLANTEDWEMPHZHL

LEAVE PARABLE FRUIT LOOK THREE
VINEYARD MAN SOIL FERTILIZE FIG
TOLD TREE DIG FIND DOWN
YEARS USE PLANTED CUT ALONE
In telling this story, Jesus was really talking about us and about God. God has "planted" us here on this earth and he expects us to produce good fruit in our life. What kind of fruit does he expect? When He looks at the way we live our life, he wants to see things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and gentleness. There are times when he is disappointed in what he sees, but he is willing to give us another chance.

What can we do to help us produce the kind of fruit that God expects? What sort of things will help us live a fruitful life.

Heavenly Father, we know that you expect good things from your children. Help us live a life that will be pleasing to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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