

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### GOD'S GRACE

Luke 13:6-9 "And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

Jesus, through the brush strokes of the words of this parable paints for us a picture that depict God's grace. God, the owner of the fig tree and the vineyard fully expected figs from the tree. There was no evidence of figs. God had every right to expect evidence of the tree producing figs.

God expects "good fruit" from you. He has every right to expect your obedience and total allegiance. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) He expects what you think, speak and do to be in total conformity with His thoughts and ways.

Like the vinedresser interceded with the owner to give the fig tree more time to produce figs, so Jesus knowing God's grace, intercedes for you. As the Holy Scriptures state, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all." (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

The Psalmist wrote, "But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness." (Psalm 86:15) Jesus intercedes for you knowing of these attributes of God while at the same time knowing that the time to repent of your sins will come to an end. This is how Jesus' parable ends. If in a year the fig tree does not bear figs it will be cut down. (Luke 13:9)

God says, ". . . if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) Jesus pleads with God to give you more time to repent. That is the point of today's

devotional verses. Jesus, pleading with God to give you more time to repent is GRACE at its pinnacle.

Prayer: Grant me, O Lord, that Your law will show me my sin and Your Gospel my Savior. Lead me to confess my sins, repent and receive your forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Amen.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;  
My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why stagger at this word of promise?  
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
No! Then this word must true remain:  
By Grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;  
Our works and conduct have no worth.  
God in His love sent our Redeemer,  
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;  
His death did for our sins atone,  
And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,  
Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit  
That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone,  
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;  
As long as God is true, it stands.  
What saints have penned by inspiration,  
What in His Word our God commands.  
Our faith in what our God has done  
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,  
In tribulation's furnace tried.

By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,  
The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure  
If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;  
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;  
For though I know my heart's condition,  
I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad, all grief has flown  
Since I am saved by grace alone.  
(LSB 566)