

March 20, 2022
Amazing Grace
Luke 13:1-9

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Prayer Statement

I am looking for frustrated gardeners. Did you transplant a rhubarb plant from your aunt's glorious plot, but yours didn't grow? Those two apple trees you have nurtured, but no blossoms or fruit. The tag said "Big Boy Reds" on the tomato plants you bought, but your crop was not that big, and the tomatoes were not really red.

I will even accept you with the not-so-green thumb trying to entice a house plant to thrive. In today's scripture from Luke 13, we hear two voices with responses to the same fig tree in a garden. In the conversation between the two, we read that the fig tree is not producing fruit. And their two proposed actions are very different.

The first voice is disappointed – the second one is hopeful.

Which voice is more like ours in our response to and our desire for peace?

Like the first voice: nothing is happening - my prayers and my actions are too little; I cannot make a difference in the injustice in my neighborhood or for peace in the world.

Or like voice number two: I can be patient – I can keep trying. My prayer – when joined with others around the world, will bring hope that situations will change, and peaceful results can occur. And my actions, such as helping with one organization or one service project, can make a difference.

Peace Prayer

Patient, Understanding God,

We bow our heads before you, Lord, and know that You invite us to join in peace making efforts and opportunities.

Sometimes we lose faith, disappointed in our small attempts at peace. We hear the voice that whispers – give up, why bother, you have tried and failed.

Yet, what we really want and hope for is to be shown how to be patient; that we will see that each short prayer, each little task, each offer to be of service are steps toward peace. Help us, God, to try again. To listen to the good voice that offers encouragement and speaks of new occasions for us to build peace in our families, our neighborhoods, our cities.

Bless us as we resolve, again, to be instruments of Your peace. Call us and we will follow the One, the Prince of Peace, in whose name we pray, Amen