

## St. John's EBCs, Everyday Bible Conversations!

*EBC 3, 2, 1! – On Location in 2025! Leading to Worship Sunday, March 23, 2025*

### Reading: Luke 13:1-9

EBC focuses on bringing the Bible into our Everyday Lives, emphasizing God's Everyday presence by finding connections in our physical world! EBC also has a video component on the St. John's website and St. John's YouTube channel. This week, we give thanks for the enumerable second chances and abundant forgiveness of God! Click here:

[https://youtu.be/kVa4MW3Kt\\_U](https://youtu.be/kVa4MW3Kt_U) Welcome to this week's EBC 3,2,1! Three points, two questions, and one action step!

### Three Points

- In these verses of Luke, recent events in Galilee have seen two different groups of Galileans suffering and dying. So Jesus is asked, did these bad things happen because those suffering and dying were worse sinners than the rest of us? No, Jesus replies, but unless you repent, you will perish just as they did.
- This seeming judgment is immediately tempered with a parable of the Barren Fig Tree. The owner of a fruitless tree orders the tree destroyed. Even though the tree has been fruitless for three years, the caretaker implores the owner: just give it one more year!
- The caretaker promises to place manure around it and care for the tree, and if the tree still does not bear fruit, then the tree can be torn down.

### Two Questions

- How is the discussion about the Galileans connected to the parable? Are they both judgment stories? Or is the parable a story of hope from God, even in the midst of earthly hardship? After all, didn't the tree actually avoid the tragedy at the hand of its owner? After repeated failures, isn't their still hope?
- There is no ending to this parable! We don't know what happens next! Does the tree bear fruit? If not, is the tree given yet another chance? Let's assume Jesus stopped short of the ending on purpose. What is the "meaning" in leaving us hanging?

### Action Step

- Write the next sentences of the parable in your own faith journey! Can you bear a bit of fruit this week? Be confident and joyful, God will give you all you need, and every chance!

*Don't like these questions? Do these verses say something different to you? Great! What it is?*

And as always, you are encouraged to find a friend (or two or many) and take an EBC coffee break! Find 15-25 minutes somewhere in the week and share your faith. Have fun finding God this week in your Everyday Life!