

3rd Sunday of Lent - Luke 13:1-9

I'd like to tell you a story today about four people: Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody.

In the story there was a very important job which had to be done. Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Everybody knew that it was a job that Anybody could do.

But in the end Nobody did it. Now this caused Somebody to become quite angry, because after all it was Everybody's job. But Everybody kept insisting, "Anybody can do it." And Nobody seemed to realize that Everybody would never do it. Only Somebody would.

Today's gospel calls us to be that Somebody who acts. It calls us to do this because there is an extremely important job that needs to be done: the building of God's Kingdom.

All of us through our baptism have been called to cooperate with God in recreating the world. Now clearly, Everybody has been called, but Everybody is not going to do it. That is why Somebody has to act.

Perhaps because we know that it is Everybody's job or perhaps because we know Anybody can do it, that so little action happens.

Today's gospel is all about that lack of action. We are compared to barren fig trees, trees that produce no fruit. God is that patient gardener who keeps fertilizing, and cultivating, and hoping that Someone would act to build God's Kingdom.

Now the actions that build God's Kingdom are actions that Anybody can do, but Somebody needs to do them.

This is the third Sunday of Lent. We are about halfway through the Lenten season.

How many of us can identify in our lives, over the last three weeks, some actions that have helped to build God's Kingdom?

Are they there or do we find that it's pretty much business as usual (with maybe a little less chocolate and alcohol)?

The challenge then that I give to each of you here today is this: identify one action, **one action** which you can do that will build God's Kingdom.

Choose one action which will move the world a bit closer to unity, to peace, to justice. It might be picking up the phone to call a relative or friend from whom you are estranged and simply letting that person know that the door is still open to reconciliation.

It might be taking a few moments to educate yourself on current political or social issues that have a bearing upon the welfare of our country or of the world.

It might be giving a bit of your time or energy to some group that is working against poverty or violence

It might be reaching out to someone in your neighborhood who is in need—a person who you have thought for some time could use some help, but so far you have never acted to help.

Now is the time for action. Now is the time to do at least one thing to produce fruit, so that there might be at least one fig on the branch of the tree which was previously barren.

Any action we do builds God's Kingdom. I know that it's Everybody's job, and I know that Anybody can do it. But Somebody has to do it. And that Somebody is you. AMEN.