

Impulse for the lent

Gospel at the third Sunday of lent: Luke 13,6-9

Jesus 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.'

What does this text have to do with the theme of 'pilgrims of hope'?

Jesus compares the fig tree with us humans; in this respect, it is also about an inner journey that I am taking - about personal development.

It makes sense to ask myself the following questions from time to time: What priorities do I set in my life? Do they help me to live well and meaningfully? Or do I perhaps need to change them? Do they also benefit other people I am involved with? Or do they even harm them?

Lent is a good opportunity to reflect on my life and my lifestyle and to see whether and to what extent I am 'bearing fruit' - for myself and for others.

In the Gospel we find another aspect: even if I realise that I am currently falling short of my own standards - God gives me time to develop. I don't have to bring about change overnight, but I should keep an eye on it.

With this in mind, I wish you a good Lent.

Yours, Barbara Scheck

(Pastoral counsellor and hospital chaplain)