



# Daily Reflections

**March 24, 2019**

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## Scripture

**Luke 13: 1-9**

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!"

And he told them this parable:

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener,

'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.

So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?'  
He said to him in reply,  
'Sir, leave it for this year also,  
and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;  
it may bear fruit in the future.  
If not you can cut it down.'"

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

It's difficult these days to watch the news or read the newspaper. There's always so much bad, even horrible news of a sudden and tragic nature. We hear accounts of good and decent people killed quickly and sometimes brutally. It's enough to make you want to crawl in bed and pull the covers over your head. Why does this happen? Where's God in all of it, we ask? Realistically speaking bad things have always happened and always will while we are here on earth. What are we to do? Be prepared. How? We must work at being grounded in our faith because when we are, we can withstand anything. God sent His only Son to be our Rock. May we learn to stand on the Rock at all times.

If we do, we will not be shaken.

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## **Food for your Journey**

"It's a jungle out there!" Just ask Jay Rathman. He was hiking in one of the wilderness areas near his northern California home. Passing along a rocky ledge, he sensed a movement beside his face. A timber rattlesnake struck, just missing his right ear. Its fangs got snagged in the wool of Rathman's turtleneck sweater, pulling the snake onto his shoulders. He grabbed it just behind the head with his left hand, as they both tumbled down the slope through the brush and rocks. In this eyeball-to-eyeball encounter, he discovered that snakes don't blink. In about 20 minutes, he was able to throttle the reptile. Later, passing through the checkout gate, Rathman said to Warden Smith, "I'd like to register a complaint about your wildlife here."

Reading that hair-raising account reminds us how closely it resembles life on a daily basis. At the most unsuspecting moment, something strikes at us. We are knocked off balance by the assault .... Who hasn't been tumbled head over heels by demands and deadlines? Who hasn't done battle with poisonous

irritations on the slopes of overcommitment, underachievement and burnout? Who hasn't had to fend off surprise attacks from criticism that strike at us like hungry predators and rip into us like needle-sharp claws? They are frequent and varied: physical pain, emotional trauma, relational stress, spiritual doubts, marital conflicts, occupational disappointments, financial reversals ... demonic assaults.

\_J. Walter Cross, "Under No  
Delusions," Bradenton, Florida.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, Help me to grow closer to You. In this world which is filled with so much uncertainty, I need to know that You are always there. Strengthen my ability to trust You at all times. Amen