

## Luke 13 pt 1 vs. 01-09 NIV

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup> "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

1. Jesus has been teaching about discipleship & what it means to follow Him
  - a. He taught on the importance of sitting at His feet
  - b. The importance of having a united heart
    - i. He's about 6 months away from Calvary
    - ii. Last time we looked at Fire, feud & forgiveness

### I. Focus

### II. Fruit

### I. Focus

1. Those who were listening to the Lord teach about Him sending fire on the earth & the importance of asking forgiveness & making peace with your adversary asked Him a question about tragedy and why it happens
2. It's a question about why bad things happen to good innocent people
3. It's a normal question and we consider it when we hear of something bad happening

4. We sometimes question God's wisdom as we try to make sense of these events
  - a. Why people we know & love get sick, or in accidents or die suddenly
  - b. It's normal to wonder "WHY"
5. The setting here, is there was great animosity between the Jews & Rome
  - a. Especially between Pontius Pilot the governor and the religious Jews
    - i. History tells us that he provoked the Jews numerous times
    - ii. He took money from the temple treasury to build an aqueduct
    - iii. Apparently, some Galileans were not happy and protest
    - iv. On one occasion, as these protestors were in the Temple, he had his soldiers dress in civilian clothes & mingle with the mob.
    - v. Using concealed weapons, the soldiers killed a number of the innocent protesters
    - vi. This only added to the Jews' hatred for their governor
    - vii. It's a serious issue
6. If Jesus ignored it, the crowd would accuse Him of being pro-Roman and disloyal to His people.
7. If He defended the Jews and accused Pilate, He would be in trouble with the Romans, and possibly be arrested by them
8. Maybe their complaint was to get Jesus to take sides, but it was at its root a question about why tragedies happen?
  - a. **It's a complaint and a question rolled into one**
  - b. **Is it because they were worse sinners?**
  - c. People measure suffering & ease in life as a direct consequence of God's view of them

- d. If God is happy with you and you're a good person, then your life will be blessed and you'll have minimal problems
  - e. On the other hand, if you are **not** a good person, then God's hand of judgment will bring disease or calamity to "put your nose in it"
  - f. **That's not a correct assessment at all**
  - g. But that was a common understanding with the Jews
  - h. So much so that the disciples ask Jesus a question in **John 9**
    - i. Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?
    - ii. He's blind because somebody sinned because if something's wrong with you, that's a judgment of God on your personal sin
    - iii. "if someone's life is easy, God must be pleased with them – therefore they must be a good person with a good heart"
    - iv. "If someone's life is challenging and full of difficulty, God must be angry – therefore they must have an evil heart"
    - v. – **UNTRUE**
    - vi. It's fascinating that we tend to put it in light of "others", not really focusing on ourselves...
      - 1. This group is asking about a tragedy that happened to others
      - 2. The disciples are asking about the blind man
      - 3. No one is asking the LORD about their own heart
9. To illustrate this point, God's Word tells us about a man named Job
- a. **Job was a worshiper of God and lived a blessed life**
  - b. **He was one of the wealthiest men of his time**
    - i. 7 sons & 3 daughters
    - ii. 7 thousand sheep
    - iii. 3 thousand camels
    - iv. 5 hundred yoke of oxen

- v. 5 hundred female donkey
  - vi. A very large household
  - vii. The greatest of all the men of the east
  - viii. A well respected man living a pretty good life
- c. One day, a conversation about Job happened between God & Satan
- d. Satan challenged God that if calamity happens, he'll curse God
- e. With permission, Satan began attacking Job's family, possessions, health...
- i. The cattle was stolen
    - 1. Band of thieves stole some
    - 2. Fire from heaven consumed some
    - 3. Job had nothing left
  - ii. A great wind caused the home the 10 siblings were in to collapse
  - iii. All of this happened in the same day
- f. When Job's friends heard about the calamity, they came to comfort Job
- g. Because of his intense grief, they sat silently for 7 days
- h. **But eventually they had to add their 2 cents**
- i. Job's friends thought his calamity was due to his sin
- i. **Eliphaz the temnite** – Job, you have sin in your life
    - 1. This is definitely God's punishment on you
    - 2. God doesn't just punish you for no reason
  - ii. **Bildad the Shuhite** – Job, you have sinned, & you know your sin and you're refusing to repent
    - 1. You absolutely know your sin & you're refusing to repent
    - 2. Clearly this is God's punishment on you
  - iii. **Zophar the Naamathite** – Job, you have sin, you know what it is and the judgment is less than you deserve
    - 1. Your sin deserve much more than God gave you

- j. Wow, those are great friends
  - k. At the end of the book, The LORD spoke to Job & said your friends speak foolishness, they misrepresent me and they need to repent
  - l. Because God did not bring calamity on Job, Satan did
  - m. The idea of others trying to know what "the sin" is, is not right
    - i. You don't really know what's happening in another person's life
  - n. If a trial is allowed by God, He'll give you the strength, He has a plan
    - i. He'll use what the enemy meant to destroy you for good
10. Another example is Asaph who was a worship leader in the temple
- a. He wasn't looking at bad things happening to seemingly good people
  - b. He saw how good things were happening to seemingly bad people
  - c. I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men... (Psalm 73)
  - d. These are the ungodly who are always at ease; they increase in riches.
  - e. Surely, I have cleansed my heart in vein...
  - f. **This sword cuts both ways**
    - i. We sometimes think that God must be punishing others for some kind of sin in their life
    - ii. Other times we wonder why those that are evil seem to prosper
  - g. **Vs. 17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end
  - h. Asaph was complaining about how wicked people prosper until he got the right perspective

- i. In an encounter with God, the LORD showed him the truth
    - i. **THE END IS WHAT MATTERS**
    - ii. **The limited number of years on this earth is not the whole story**
    - iii. **Eternity is what matters**
11. There are two kinds of tragedies in the text: those caused by evil people; and, those caused by accidents or natural disasters are not what matter
  12. Jesus takes it to a higher level
    - a. The issue is not how you die, or the cause of death
    - b. Real calamity is that you die without repenting, then you will face divine judgment and perish in hell.
    - a. **Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**
    - b. Repent simply means to change your mind and direction
    - c. Although it's the same word, the Greek tense is different
    - d. Vs. 3 is repenting once and for all
    - e. Vs. 5 is a continual repentance

## **II. Fruit**

1. **<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' <sup>8</sup>"Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"**
2. It's clear that God is looking for fruit
3. Just as a fruit tree will naturally bring fruit, our lives will also bring fruit

4. A good tree will bring good fruit & a bad tree will produce bad fruit
5. **With respect to this parable, there are several applications**
  - a. God dealt with Israel and gave them ample time to show fruit of repentance and turning to God
  - b. When they clearly refused (as a nation) then comes judgment
  - c. Although they've had Moses (the law) & all the prophets speaks God's Word, they refused it
  - d. When Jesus arrived, He's preached for 3 years and no repentance
  - e. At a certain point in time, the clock stops and it time to give an account
  - f. And that's certainly what happened in 70 AD as a nation
6. **Another application is for us on a personal level**
  - a. God wants to see fruit of repentance
    - i. For people to have a change of direction from death to life
    - ii. The problem is there is no one that seeks God
    - iii. There is not one righteous, no not one (Rom 3:10)
  - b. We're all born with a rebellious stubborn heart, so we're unable to bear this kind of fruit – fruit of repentance
  - c. God obviously knows that and Jesus being our mediator says, give it one more year (**one more opportunity**)
  - d. That's the good news, that Jesus is the one whose taking care of the vineyard
  - e. The prophets wrote about Jesus in the O.T
  - f. **Is 11:1** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of wisdom and

understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord

- g. **Is 53:2** For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground
- h. **Jer 23:5** Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved...
- i. So Jesus then becomes the vine and we're His branches
- j. **Hosea 14:8** "O Israel, stay away from idols! I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me." (NLT)
- k. All we need to do is believe in the good news
  - i. That Jesus came to save sinners of whom I'm chief
- l. God's Word planted in good soil will bring good fruit
  - i. Matthew was a tax collector
  - ii. Thomas was a doubter
  - iii. John & James had anger issues
- m. God was able to transform them into fruitful lives
- n. Lives that changed the day they met Jesus and lives that continued to change as they drew closer & closer to the LORD
- o. If you feel fruitless today, the caretaker knows how to dig around and place just enough fertilizer to bring that lasting fruit
- p. Trust in Jesus today