

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

The Message in the Disaster

Luke 13: 1-9

As we return to Luke, we pick up the thread of judgment and the conversation with the disciples and the crowds. In response to Jesus' message about the coming end times and the final judgment (see Luke 12:35-59), someone in the crowd poses a question about judgment that may come sooner, in the form of a recent tragedy in which Pilate had a number of worshipers murdered as they were offering sacrifices.

I. The Question of Disasters & Tragic Death

- A. Pilate's murder of the Galileans
- B. Jesus' reference to the 18 men killed when a tower fell
- C. Current events that appear to be either senseless tragedies or divine judgment

II. Sin, Judgment, and the Human Race

- A. Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish
- B. The depths of sin's corruption
 - 1. There is relative good and bad, noble and evil action among people
 - 2. There remains in everyone the vestige of God's nature in creation
 - 3. There also lurks in every human heart evil that is incomprehensible
- C. There is no such thing as a righteous person who does not deserve death and judgment (Romans 3:1-9; Hebrews 10:27)

III. The Parable of the Unproductive Fig Tree

- A. It is consistently unproductive
- B. It deserves judgment and destruction
- C. It is given one more opportunity with special care and nurture
- D. This is a picture of God's grace and patience with us:
 - 1. Every day we are given is an opportunity to repent and be right
 - 2. Every day is a new opportunity to become beautiful and fruitful
- E. It is also a solemn warning: while transformation is possible, it is unlikely

Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?' And he answered and said to him, 'Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"

Luke 13: 1-9 NASB

