

Title: UNLESS YOU REPENT, LUKE 13:1 – 9
(Chatham, NJ; 02/24/16, AM) [E – Exegetical]

Theme: Jesus teaches us that all people everywhere must repent of their sins or they will face judgment even if it seems like in our way of thinking that some are worse than others.

Purpose: To exhort the audience to repent and live a life of holiness.

Introduction:

1. In the middle of the 20th century someone wrote: (see copy).
2. We tend to glamorize those who've turned from a wayward life.
3. Or we might even think: they really needed it, but we aren't quite so bad.
4. But Jesus' words, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish," challenges everyone.
5. Furthermore, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God," Romans 3:23.
6. Luke 13:1-9 addresses our skewed assumptions of guilt.

I. Worse Sinners than the Rest

A. The Galileans

1. The crowd tells Jesus about them.
2. History tells us nothing about these men in particular.
3. But the Jewish historian, Josephus, tells us of numerous atrocities perpetrated by Roman authorities.
4. He also writes disparagingly about Galileans in general: they were "even craving for revolution, by temperament addicted to change and delighting in sedition." (Zondervan Commentary by Garland, 537)
5. We don't know if they were rebels.

B. Jesus' response

1. Luke does not tell us why someone mentions this to Jesus.
2. Perhaps they want Jesus to condemn Pilate; perhaps they want him to sympathize with the victims and their families; perhaps they hope Jesus will be motivated to join in the rebellion against the Romans.
3. He doesn't bite on any of this.
4. He challenges a human assumption: they must be worse sinners than the rest because of what happened to them.
5. Jesus says, "Is that what you think?" "Were they worse sinners than other Galileans [or worse than you]?"
6. "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish," (3).
7. We can't say some people need to repent more than I do.

II. More Sinners or Just an Unfortunate Stroke of Fate

A. A Local Accident

1. The tower of Siloam
2. The pool of Siloam was in Jerusalem and Pilate built an aqueduct leading to it
3. Presumably these were innocent workers killed in a fateful accident
4. Did Jesus' disciples believe that such fateful accidents befell only the wicked?
5. The three friends of Job offered the argument that bad happens because of bad behavior
6. Do we think that because good things happen to people that they are good people, or that bad things won't happen to good people?
7. Perhaps we feel relieved or thankful that it wasn't us

B. Jesus' response is the same

1. We must avoid the notion that this happened necessarily because of God's judgment
2. These people weren't worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem
3. "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish," 5
4. Jesus doesn't make this an occasion for prayers and sympathy for the victims
5. Rather he demands that we recognize our sinfulness
6. The rest of us are no better.
7. There might be no good reason why some live and some die, but his message is still the same: think about your own sins and repent

III. Second, Third, and Fourth Chances (6-9)

A. Prophetic Messages of Repentance

1. Rend your hearts, not your garments, Joel 2:13
2. The soul who sins is the one who will die, Ezekiel 18 – he was attempting to get Israel to see that if they turned away from sin, they would live
3. Besides the message of repentance, each of these prophets tells us that God prefers not to let them die
4. Joel says, "he relents from sending disaster"
5. Ezekiel 18:23 says, "Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?"
6. Later, "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone."
7. This is behind the next parable

B. Giving the tree another chance

1. The vinedresser asks to try again
2. With a little help, the tree might still prove fruitful
3. 2 Peter 3:9 – God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish
4. He wants all to reach repentance

Conclusion:

1. Repentance is an opportunity.
2. God's effort to give us numerous chances is a remarkable display of patience.
3. He doesn't take pleasure in the death of the wicked.
4. He will forgive.
5. Repent and accept the forgiveness that He offers.