

What Was Jesus Thinking?

Luke 13:1-9

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Hurricane Harvey!



Harvey!



Charlottesville Virginia!



Charlottesville Virginia!



Observations

- At the beginning of Luke chapter 13, Jesus is told about a particularly heinous incident that had happened
- He used the opportunity once informed, to focus on what the proper response should be to natural disasters and human atrocities

#1 Human Atrocities Should Cause Us to Repent

- Luke tells us that there were some Galileans Jews whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices
- History records that Pontius Pilate was a ruthless dictator (many massacres during his administration)
- This would have had to have taken place at the temple in Jerusalem during the Passover when the Jewish pilgrims came (normally priests made the animal sacrifices)
- So Pilate executed a few Galileans while they were worshipping. We are not told why.

Observations

- Jesus invokes the idea that there are more important issues than where do the Roman government's political limits end and our religious rights begin
- Jesus asks the question, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they died like this?”
- There was a common belief among Jews : that calamities were always God's judgment on sin

Remember Job's Friends in the Old Testament and Jesus' Disciples in the New!

- Job 4:7 *“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed?”*
- John 9:1-2 *Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*

#2 Jesus Says That All Personal Suffering is Not the Direct Result of Someone's Sins

- *“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”*
- Jesus' answer is to all who sin. He doesn't assert that we sin, but assumes or knows that we do and we should too
- Some of our sins are more obvious than others, and some are easier to hide
- Some sins are more destructive in consequences but all sin is sin
- All sin is a violation against the holiness and infinitely perfect God and all have sinned. Romans 3:23

Observations

- Jesus says to the crowd that the death of the Galileans should remind all who hear about it of their own need to repent
- The heinous crimes that we hear about should remind us of our need to repent (self reflection)



What Is Jesus Thinking?

***MAN'S INHUMANITY TO
MAN SHOULD REMIND US
OF OUR FALLENNESS WITH
GOD AND OUR NEED FOR
REPENTANCE TO LIVE!***

#3 Then Jesus Adds His Own Example of the Frailties of Life

A Natural Catastrophe

“Or those eighteen on whom the tower of Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all the other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?”

- The Tower of Siloam was located in the southeastern corner of Jerusalem
- These eighteen people died accidentally (like hurricane Harvey killed some people)

Jesus Again Says No to the Idea That These Deaths Befell People Due to Their Own Egregious Wickedness

- Disasters like Harvey arise from a complex array of factors in terms of who gets affected adversely (weather, voluntary living choices, socioeconomic choices, degree of affect on health)
- Jesus is thinking that we all should see natural disasters as a wake up call, a personal call to repentance and prepare to meet God, Amos 4:12
- Let's not ask, "Who is to blame?" but "Lord, what are you saying to me?"

Observations

- Remember, since we know that SUDDEN DEATH IS A POSSIBILITY, the sooner we repent ***and*** bear the fruit of repentance, the better
- Jesus then gives another example to illustrate this eternal reality
- He tells the story of a man who had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard
- He went one day to look for its production of figs and there were none to be found (fig trees normally bear fruit every year)

Observations

- In Verse 7 we find that the tree had received some special interest from the vineyard owner

Then he said to the keeper of the vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’

#4 A God of Second Chances

But he answered and said unto him, Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.”

Fig Tree



Fruit Impacts Lives

- Become a responsible member of the body of Christ
- Let your Christian light shine (Evangelize by word/deed)
- Seek to foster good sister relationships
- Impact our youth committees
- Work with our senior citizens
- Impact the physical health of your brothers and sisters
- Join our marriage ministry and help to build them
- Impact our Deaf Ministry
- Be responsible in Widowed Ministry (Help to mend broken hearts)
- Help us work with this community in the city



What Was Jesus Thinking?

- Producing fruit not just professing faith in Jesus and voicing repentance is what God requires, *Matthew 3:8* Where is your fruit (**spiritual impact?**)
- Judgment is coming, starting with the house of God, *1 Peter 4:17*
- The delay in judgment is not due to our own worthiness but God's mercy and grace *Ephesians 2:8*
- Patience toward unrepentant people is not permanent *The barren fig tree will be cut down! Luke 13:9*

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38