

Luke 13:1-9 - Repentance - The Eternal Decision

Luk 13:1-5 NIV Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

When Tragedy Happens

Where does tragedy come from?

Though all of these below are possibilities --

Many times we simply do not know the cause or source.

- Sometimes it is part of living in a **fallen world** where people exercise free will
 - Story of Joseph (you meant it for evil, God worked it for good)
- Sometimes it is **instigated by Satan**
 - Story of Job - (Satan asked permission to afflict Job)
- Sometimes it is an **act of God**
 - Story of Jonah - (God prepared the wind and the fish)
 - Ananias and Sapphira - (dropped over dead for lying)
- Sometimes it is **nature that has been corrupted by the fall** [see Rom 8:22] - (natural disasters might fall into this category) - Jesus calmed the storm

How Did Jesus Address the Tragedy?

1) Jesus Challenged Their Wrong Thinking

2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 **I tell you, no!**4 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? 5 **I tell you, no!**..."

They were associating tragedy with sinfulness - and that was not an unusual way of thinking

- This is how Job's friends thought of the tragedies he experienced
 - Job 4:7-8 ESV "Remember: who that was innocent ever perished? Or where were the upright cut off? 8 As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.
- This is how the disciples thought in John 9 - "who sinned this man or his parents that he was born blind"
 - The answer was "Neither - but that God's glory should be revealed in him"
- Jesus was clear that this was not the case here
 - "I tell you "no"

2) He Re-Focused the Conversation Around *Eternal Issues*

2 Jesus answered, "***Do you think*** that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But ***unless you repent, you too will all perish.*** 4 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? 5 I tell you, no! But ***unless you repent, you too will all perish.***"

- The focus was personal - "Do **You** Think...?" ...
- The focus was truthful - "**Unless YOU repent...**"
- The focus was turned to eternal things - "**You too will perish**"

- **The greatest tragedy** is that men would perish after the Son of God has given his life for them - it is a uniquely PERSONAL message - no one but you can respond to it

3) His Message Was Repent or Perish

Unless you repent you too will all perish

- Perishing is the destiny of **all** men -- UNLESS
- Repentance is the only remedy - that changes our destiny
- There is no other alternative (he didn't say, you **could** repent, and if you don't feel like doing that, ***you could try something else*** --- like going to church, getting baptized, being a nicer person etc etc)

What Does He Mean By Perish?

1) Perish is NOT physical death

- Sometimes in the bible the word perish means to die [*ex. those who live by the sword shall perish by the sword*] - but here in this context the meaning is not death...Jesus is saying **if you repent you will not perish**...that cannot mean if you repent you will not die like those the tower fell on.

2) Perishing described as the opposite of being saved

- 2Th 2:9-12 ESV The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

3) Perishing is the alternative of eternal life

- John 10:28 KJV And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that whosoever believes on him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

4) **The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing**

- 1 Corinthians 1:18 KJV For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

5) **Repentance is the only remedy**

- 2Pe 3:9 KJV The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

What Does It Mean to Repent?

G3341 metanoia - *compunction* (for guilt, including *reformation*); by implication *reversal* - comes from a word that means to *reconsider* or to *think differently*

God's Goodness leads to Repentance

...but Judgment and Wrath to the Impenitent [*unrepentant*]

Romans 2:4-6 KJV Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? (5) **But** after thy hardness and **impenitent** heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; (6) Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Repentance Can be Accompanied By Godly Sorrow

2 Corinthians 7:10 KJV For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Repentance Toward God = faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ

Acts 20:21 KJV Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and **faith** toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

- When we repent toward God - we have faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ
- Remember it is the preaching of the cross that is foolish to those who are perishing - to those who are being saved it is the power of God

Repent from Dead Works - nothing but the work of Christ on the cross

Hebrews 6:1 KJV Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of **faith toward God.**

- This is a turning away of anything we think will get us to heaven aside from faith in what Jesus has done

True repentance produces a changed life

Acts 26:20 KJV But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Repentance is an obedient surrender to the father's will

Mat 21:28-31 KJV But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but ***afterward he repented, and went.*** 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first...

The teaching that Christians no longer need to repent is in error

Repent of your wickedness (this to a believer Acts 8:13))

Acts 8:22 KJV Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

As many as I love I rebuke - Repent therefore

Revelation 3:19 KJV As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

- this was written to the church at Laodicea - he called other churches to repent as well [*Ephesus Rev 2:5; Pergamos Rev 2:16; Sardis Rev 3:3*]

Repentance Brings Fruitfulness

Luke 13:6-9 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. 7 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?' 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

“Repent or perish” is a message of the strongest love

- He loves us enough to confront us
- He loves us enough to warn us
- It tells the truth about eternal judgement
- It says God's mercy, grace and forgiveness are still available
- It says He wants to have a relationship with us
- It offers hope of a transformed life