

Repentance and Warning of Judgment Luke 13.1-17

Repent or Perish

13 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

⁶ He also spoke this parable: "A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ Then he said to the keeper of his 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?' ⁸ But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize *it*. ⁹ And if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"

A Spirit of Infirmary

¹⁰ Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up. ¹² But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." ¹³ And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. ¹⁴ But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it? ¹⁶ So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" ¹⁷ And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus ask the question about the Galileans whose blood had been mingled with their sacrifices? How were the people thinking wrongly about such untimely and tragic events? How did Jesus feel about this?
2. Why did Jesus then mention those on whom the tower of Siloam fell? What lesson did Jesus teach from these two incidents?
3. Rather than wondering if God may be using terrible tragedies to directly punish people for some sin they must have committed, how can we make better application that people often die tragically?
4. What are the factors that lead to repentance? What will happen to those who do not repent of their sins?
5. Why would the owner of the fig tree be ready to cut the tree down after three years with no fruit? What would its being planted in a vineyard have to do with his expectations?
6. Based on the preceding teaching of Jesus to his own people and nation, what lesson did Jesus teach from the parable of the fig tree?
7. What is represented by the additional year of special care which the vineyard keeper requested? What do the scriptures teach about the long-suffering of God?
8. What was the purpose of Jesus for healing the woman in the synagogue? What was the cause of her condition that had caused her to live in great discomfort for 18 years?
9. Why did Jesus lay His hands on the woman and then say "You are loosed from your infirmity"? How did the woman immediately react to the healing?
10. Why did the ruler of the synagogue direct His criticism to the crowd rather than Jesus? Why does Jesus level His charge of hypocrisy directly at the ruler?
11. What is the point of the contrast between what Jesus had done and what the custom of the Jews would allow?