

Luke 13.1-21

Repent or Perish!

Ch 12 ENDS Strong Warning: vs. 58,59 As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

v. 1 “there were some present at THAT VERY TIME...”

Ch 13 - 2 Tragic Events - Unknown from any Other Historical Source

How UNDERSTAND: Terrible Events, Tragedies Around the World

12.46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, *and will cut him in pieces*

Cut to Pieces > Hey! Did you Hear about those Galileans...YOUR Home!

1. The Providence of God: *Unreadable*

a. Atrocities – Terrible Act of Man // Shooting in CHURCH SERVICE

v. 1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Pilate’s Soldiers CUT DOWN Worshippers giving their Sacrifices to God

Cruelty of ROMAN Governor PILATE IS WELL DOCUMENTED

Was Jesus PRO-ROMAN or PRO-REVOLUTION?

11.53,54 Pharisees & teachers of law began to oppose him fiercely & besiege him w questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say

Would Expose his Political Opinions in Comments on Current Events

With Answer > Either TURN ROMANS or the PEOPLE AGAINST Jesus

b. Accidents: Tragic Events of NATURE, Mother Nature? Father God?

v. 4 those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them:

Part Old Wall of Jerusalem FELL & KILLED on 18 Innocent Bystanders

People eager talk about troubles of others – Hope Never Happens to Them

Worse Sinners in Galilee or Judea? God More Angry w Galileans?

Rivalry btwn Cowboy Galileans & CITY-SLICKERS of Jerusalem

Tragic Events expose Mortality > END a Life of Promise & Potential

Atrocities: Sept 11, 2001: Airplanes became Aerial Missiles into Bldings

Accidents: Dec 26, 2004 Wave became Wall of Death, Indonesia to Africa

c. Answers...? – Whole World is ASKING WHY Such EVIL OCCURS?

1) Man's Problem Modern Mantra: What Goes round, Comes Around!"

Tragedy Connected to Lives they LIVED? > Extremely BAD KARMA?

EVEN Jesus DISCIPLES held this COMMONLY BELIEVED Opinion

His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

John 9:2

That Jesus of Nazareth, Lord and Christ of God, suffered at the hands of lawless men should have buried forever the connection that argues that those who suffer are the worst of sinners. But it has not. Fred Craddock

2) God's Problem Somebody's Problem, If Not Man, then God...

LUKE's Time > People Blame Man // Today > People BLAME GOD

Where is God in all That? IS there even a God? If so, must be BAD GOD?

See-Saw Theology > Blame God > Man UP / GOD is DOWN

God Not Obligated to Answer: Lord, Creator, Sovereign, He is GOOD!

See-Saw is Rightly Restored > God is UP / MAN MUST be DOWN

3) Not Problems but Providence

vs. 2 "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?..."

Jesus never mentions Specific Sins > Uncontested FACT > All Guilty

Jesus to his Listeners > You have ESCAPED a SIMILAR FATE

NOT because of your Goodness but because of God's Present Mercy

Another word for God's Present Mercy > PROVIDENCE

Heidelberg Catechism Question 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

A: God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

We Cannot Interpret Providence, WE INTERPRET SCRIPTURE

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law. Deuteronomy 29.29

Secret Things: Walls Falling, Planes Crashing, Waves Smashing?

Revealed: God is Good, All Time, Perfectly Just, Holy, Righteous, Kind

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin & forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot & hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. Micah 7.18

2. The Patience of God: *Unending?....No!*

World: "God Must give Reason!" Wave that Wipe Out ¼ Million Souls

Jesus changes 'R'- WORD > "YOU MUST Give God Repentance!"

Luke says MORE about REPENTANCE than any Other NT Writer

Salvation by GRACE thru FAITH DEMANDS REPENTANCE

There are three elements of true repentance: confession, contrition, and change... *Confession is the intellectual aspect of repentance: we know in our minds we have sinned. Contrition is the emotional aspect of repentance: we feel in our hearts that we have sinned. Change is the volitional aspect of repentance: we resolve in our wills that we will sin no more.* All three aspects are essential for our repentance to be genuine. Philip Ryken

a. God's Patience Tested Sorely by the Sons of Israel

Self Confidence of Jews - NO TRUE BASIS – No Fruit = No Faith

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance... Luke 3:7-8

Fig Tree: Symbol of Nation of Israel – Every Opportunity to be Fruitful

Prophets – Scriptures – Priesthood – Sacrifices – Covenants > Messiah

Matthew and Mark > CLUSTER Parables into Several Chapters

Luke puts Parable in Teaching Section to Illustrate the Teaching Point

Material in our Section found 6 Different Chapters in Matthew's Gospel

vs. 6,7 "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground? '

Picture of God's Patience – STAY of Execution for FRUITLESS Tree

v. 8 he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

v. 10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath ...

Scene Shift: Fig Tree to Gathering of Figs – Synagogue – God’s People

Fourth & FINAL time Luke’s SHOWS Jesus IN a Synagogue

Ch 4 > Hometown Synagogue @ Nazareth: “as was his habit” weekly

What did Son of God NEED to Learn? Nothing! – Wired to PRAISE God!

v. 14 But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on Sabbath, said to the people, “There are 6 days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.”

Ruler’s Sabbath was Dead Tradition > Rebukes People who Need Help

Afraid to Confront Jesus > Says the Chosen should remain FROZEN!

If Crippled Woman came Next Day, what could HE DO for HER??

Jesus NOT Afraid to Confront this Bottleneck to God’s Blessings

AT THIS Point Luke calls **Jesus LORD**: vs. 15,16 Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it?

Woman like Animal > Tied Up by Jewish Man-made Sabbath Laws

v. 16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

Sabbath > Day of Celebration and JOY in the Lord

Day 2 Demonstrate God’s Liberating Grace 4 Daughters & Sons Abe

v. 17 As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Jewish Leaders were Shamed, Joyful Followers were Shouting Praises!

Undercurrent of Entire Section Luke: Conflict – Going to Jerusalem

b. God’s Patience Truly Seen in Daughter of Abraham

Luke Freely Uses Image of Good Woman as Picture of Patient GOD

vs. 11 And behold, there was a woman who had had a **disabling spirit** for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself.

Only Time in Gospels > Physical Malady blamed on Satan: UNUSUAL

Dr. Luke careful Separate Moral / Spiritual / Physical Effects of the FALL

18 yrs of Affliction, Pain: Worshipping in Synagogue

Shamed by her Contorted Appearance / Ignored by Most People

Woman Not Ask – Expressed No Faith in Jesus – Divine Initiative

vs. 12,13 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.

c. God's Patience has a Limit

v. 9 if it should bear fruit next year, well & good; but if not...cut it down”

Never Know When – Pilate will Kill – Walls will Fall – Plane's will Crash

God's Providence is Patiently Moving Toward an END > FINAL Day

Soon Door of Gospel Opportunity is Closed will be Closed FOREVER

Evangelist George Whitefield sailed from England to America

Spoke with ship's cook about his continual drunkenness

Will be Wicked until Last 2 yrs of Life - then STOP – 6 hrs Later DIED

3. Purpose of God: *Unseen (sometimes), Unstoppable (always)*

a. Severity and Mercy

One Moment Jesus Extends Hand of Kindness: Heals Crippled Woman

HUGE SURPRISE to see a RABBI Touch a CRIPPLE

Next Moment: Calls Synagogue Ruler & Followers HYPOCRITES!

1 yr Fig Tree is Tended Carefully > Next Year it will be Torn Down

Jesus predicts WEEPING & Gnashing of Teeth > He Weeps for Them

Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

Romans 11.22

b. Extensive and Intensive – HOW does KINGDOM of God GROW?

Luke to Give PAIR of Parables > Focus on Man and a Woman

1st Parable comes from Farm> Tiniest Seed sown by Farmer in ISRAEL

vs. 18,19 He said therefore, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”

SEED – Diameter 1 millimeter > TREE – Over THREE Meters Tall

BRANCHES – Offer SECURE Home to BIRDS of ALL Nations

2nd Parable comes from KITCHEN > Daily Routine of Baking Bread

Leaven from Old Batch Bread, Kneaded Invisibly into New Bread Dough

vs. 20,21 And again he said, “To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened.”

1) From a Small and Seemingly Insignificant Beginning

CREATED Human Race thru ONE MAN – ADAM

COVENANT began with ONE MAN – ABRAHAM

KINGDOM commenced with ONE MAN – DAVID

New Covenant & Kingdom of God – through the MAN Christ JESUS

GOD becomes Helpless Babe – Abandoned to Cross –

Buried in TOMB - ALL His FOLLOWERS RAN Away

A woman bound by Satan has just been loosed; not a major, earth-shaking event, but in that single act is the beginning of the reign of God in world & the beginning of the end of Satan's destructive power. Fred Craddock

2) The Kingdom of God Grows

Leaven in Bible SOMETIMES a Bad Thing > NOT Always, NOT Here

Danger of Word Studies > Words in Bible are Defined by CONTEXT

Point > NOT Speed of Growth – Slow or Fast – POINT it IS GROWING!

3) At Times Invisibly and almost Imperceptibly

Grows behind Closed Doors when a Sinner Kneels to Receive X by Faith

Grows in HEARTS when Child asks Jesus in to Live There

Grows in HOMES when Fathers take Leadership Responsibility Seriously

Grows behind BARS When PRISONERS are truly PENITENT

Grows in Hard, Remote Places when His Servants take Good News there

4) Until it Reaches all Nations

By 3rd Century – Thriving Churches in Every Province of Roman Empire

Like Birds flocking to Mighty Tree > Nations were Coming to Christ

Paul took Gospel to Europe – Americas, Asia, Africa, and Australia
Today – Church of Jesus gathers in EVERY Nation of World Today
Servants reaching those Nations – Every People Group, Tribe, Religion

Do NOT be Discouraged > Seed & Leaven carry their Future in Them

We're Part of Small Acts of God > Impact Far Beyond this Time & Place

Jesus turns Question into Command: Not Speculation but a SUMMONS

God has PLAN but we must have a PASSION ---

vs. 2 “Terrible ATROCITIES against Galileans...v. 3 *I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.* Terrible ACCIDENT in Siloam v. 5 *No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*”

Jesus Never Answers Hypothetical Q's, Focus: What people must Do Now

When calamity strikes ask, what lesson is in this for me?

Many Things BEYOND our Control > Some VERY SAD!

1 Thing we DO Control, Most Impt Thing in Eternity, Relation w God

Some people do not like to hear much about repentance. But I think it is so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I should desire to die preaching repentance, and if I should die out of the pulpit, I should desire to die practicing it

Psalm 16 - You Will Not Abandon My Soul - A Miktam of David.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you." As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; **their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.**

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. **The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; **in the night also my heart instructs me.**

I have set the Lord always before me; **because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; **my flesh also dwells secure.**

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, **or let your holy one see corruption.**

You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Amen and Amen.**