

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Repentance Required

Passage: Luke 13:1-17 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: Jesus warns His disciples that following Him would not bring peace with others but rather hostile division.

I. The truth about Sin, Judgment, & Repentance (13:1-5)

- There is no historical account of who these Galileans were that the Roman governor Pilate had killed.
- It's likely Jesus' opponents were trying to leverage His sympathies to set him up.
 - If He sympathized with the victims they could accuse Him to Pilate as a seditionist.
 - If He sympathized He would be going against traditional "Judgment Theology" & folklore.
 - If He didn't sympathize He could be accused of hardness and lack of love.
- Tower of Siloam was built inside the SE wall of Jerusalem. 18 likely killed during construction.
- In both examples Jesus rejects the doctrine that unique personal calamity is evidence of greater sin.
- Jesus teaches that repentance is necessary for any to avoid God's judgment that is eternal.
- Repentance in the OT = a wholehearted turning to God.
- Repentance in the NT = a complete turn from self to God, full surrender, resulting in a changed life.

II. The facts about Israel's danger (13:6-9)

- This illustration seems to represent national Israel as barren (disobedient) fig tree as led by the religious authorities.
- 3 years would have been more than enough time for a healthy fig tree to yield fruit.
- The owner was prepared to cut the tree down but the Vine Dresser desired more time to cultivate.
- Ultimately the tree of Israel would be cut down though temporarily.

III. The reality of Jesus' pursuit of the broken (13:10-17)

- Luke seems to insert this scene to continue building Jesus' teaching points.
- The woman crippled by an evil spirit illustrates both Israel as a nation and individuals as well.
- Jesus sees her and calls her to Him. She responded to His call and comes to Him.
- With His touch she is freed and restored, and she rejoices to God for His goodness to her!
- The unrepentant synagogue ruler, however, was more interested in law codes than the powerful healing of a fellow Israelite and humiliated as a result.
- The people rejoiced because God had done a wonderful work.

IV. Personal Application

- Believing, saving faith involves repentance, a change of mind from all other saviors to Jesus alone.
- Refusal to repent and embrace Jesus will result in eternal death and judgment.
- Repentance, turning to Jesus by faith, results in restoration and eternal blessing with earthly suffering.
- God's judgment is sure but His love, mercy, grace, and long-suffering are currently extended.
- Believers should have hearts of perpetual rejoicing over all they have received from Christ!