

Sunday, January 17, 2021
Pastor Jake Magee
The Journey | The Danger of a Good Life
Luke 13:1-9



Message Notes:

“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; 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 offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” ⁶ And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ 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?’ ⁸ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’” – Luke 13:1-9

What can happen when *towers* don’t fall and *rulers* don’t rage?

Confusion about...

1. Good & Bad _____ – “*Worse Sinners...?*” - Vs. 2

2. Good and Bad _____ – “*...because they suffered this way...*” – Vs. 2

3. Good and Bad _____ – “*...unless you repent...*” Vs. 3 & 5.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

Pastor Jake Magee | 01.15.21

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Getting Started (Read Luke 13:1-9)

Jesus talks about an unfortunate accident in which a tower falls on 18 people. Pastor Jake shared a story about a falling tree. Share a story of something falling on you or your property?

Big Idea:

Jesus declared he will make life difficult for people (12:49-53). Some think that God made some people's lives more difficult because they were worse sinners (13:1-4). They also seem to believe they were better sinners because they weren't experiencing great difficulty. This conviction places them in great spiritual danger.

Digging Deeper

1. Look at verse 1. Since we don't know anything about this event besides what Jesus shares, why might Pilate have done something like this? How is Jesus' soon encounter with Pilate relevant for the assumption of these questioners?
2. *"If something bad happens, God is probably punishing you."* Jesus is challenging a belief like this.
 - Have you ever felt like this? Share when.
 - Describe some religious traditions that affirm this.
 - God designed his world in such a way that bad living sometimes results in painful consequences. Are bad consequences punishment?
 - What is wrong with the statement above?
3. Jesus challenges the spiritual category of "worse sinners."
 - Where?
 - How could this category be true and helpful?
 - How can it be unhelpful?
 - How could it become dangerous?
4. Jesus corrects a belief that says if a person is experiencing a good life, they must be "better sinners."
 - Have you ever felt like this? At what times of life?
 - Describe some religious traditions that affirm this.
 - God designed his world so that good living will often result in good consequences. Is a good life proof of true self-righteousness?
5. Jesus challenges the spiritual category of *better sinners*.
 - How could this category be true and helpful?
 - How can it be unhelpful?
 - How could it become dangerous?

6. Jesus offers a third category: *repentant sinners*.

- What is repentance? How is it like a good tree (Vss. 6-9)?
- Discuss this statement: Repentance is not only remorse and a renunciation of bad things; it's also trusting in Jesus alone to forgive. In addition, it's remorse and a renunciation of over relying on our good behavior and good life as a source of security before God; it turns from this to trust in Jesus alone.

7. Read Romans 2:4-5. How do these verses turn the assumption of Luke 13:1-4 upside down?

Making It Real

The German Protest Reformer said, "When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said "Repent," He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." Take some time and allow the mercy of God (expressed in all of his blessings of your life) to turn your heart again towards him.

FBC Family Business Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021

We will be sending out a "Business Meeting" letter with Mail-In Ballots, to our Active Members this week. We ask that you prayerfully consider God's leading in regards to reaffirming these Elders, who have recently shared their faith stories with us.

**Vote by Mail-In Ballots, or On-Line Ballots,
by Sunday, Jan. 24.**
www.sheltonfbc.org.



Damon Ernst



Ryan Spurling



Bill Swanson

Elder Reaffirmations January 24. 21

