

# Luke 13

## Luke 13.1-5

**V1** – We don't have any other details about this incident

-**What can we guess had happened?** That Pilate had slaughtered (massacred) a group of Galileans (we are not told the reason why)

-**Why had someone told Jesus about this event?** Probably because of a feeling of superiority over the Galileans – they must have done something awful to have met this fate

-In other words, the disciples wanted to talk about the sins of others, rather than their own sins

**V2** – **Who in the Old Testament was said to have suffered because of his sins?** Job, according to his friends

-But his friends were badly mistaken, and we see God rebuking them – **Read Job 42.7-9**

-**Do people today still believe that evil deeds bring on disasters?** Yes, many times

**V3** – **What did Jesus say?** All people must repent

-**What would be the consequences of not repenting?** People would perish

**V4** – **What example did Jesus give at this point?** The 18 people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them

-**Had they perished because of their guilt?** No

-**The point?** Natural catastrophes come upon all of us at random (not based on our guilt)

-See the book by Thomas Warren, *Have Atheists Proved There Is No God?* (found in many church libraries) – brother Warren discusses this view of blaming people for their suffering

-Also see the *Warren-Flew Debate* (still available in book form)

**V5** – Jesus emphasized again the need to repent

## Luke 13.6-9

**V6** – The Parable of the Barren Fig tree

-Fig tree could represent the Jewish nation

-God expected them to straighten out their behavior, but they were rebellious

-**How does the fig tree represent the rest of us?** We are all to bring forth fruits of repentance

-This was the message of John the Baptist (*Matt. 3.2*)

-**What would be "fruits" of repentance?** Good works, getting out of an evil lifestyle, etc.

-Just to say we are good ("fig trees") doesn't mean that we are good

**V7** – **What did the owner tell the vineyard-keeper?** To cut the tree down (after three years of no fruit)

**V8** – **What did the vineyard-keeper beg for?** Just one more year to see if it produced fruit

**V9** – **The final agreement?** It could grow for one more year, and then it would be cut down if it did not produce fruit

-**The message to the Jewish nation?** God's patience was almost out with the Jews

-**Exactly when did his patience run out?** 70 A.D. with the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman army

## **Luke 13.10-17**

**V 10** – Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath

-**What does this tell us about the attitude of Jesus toward faithful attendance at worship?** He didn't make excuses for missing worship, but he was always there

**V 11** – **Occupation of Luke?** Doctor

-**Details here?** The woman had been sick for 18 years, it was caused by an evil spirit, she was bent double, and she could not stand up at all

**V 12** – **Was she expecting to be healed?** No – there is no indication that she had faith in Jesus to heal her

-**Is there a message here for modern faith healers?** If they do not succeed in healing a person, they claim that the person did not have enough faith, but this lady disproves that

-**Why did Jesus choose to heal her?** To free her from her pain and sickness

**V 13** – **What was her reaction upon being healed?** She gained great faith and praised God

**V 14** – **Why was the ruler of the synagogue mad?** Jesus had healed this person on the Sabbath

-**What was his specific criticism?** There are six other days of the week when this lady could have been healed

-**Did he dispute that a miracle had taken place?** No, he totally ignored that fact!

-He saw what had happened, but still did not believe in Jesus

-**Was it wrong to heal on the Sabbath?** No, it was wrong to "work" on the Sabbath (*Ex. 20.9*)

**V 15** – What logic!

-**What argument did Jesus make?** You untie your ox or donkey, lead him out of the stall, and lead him to water (verbs of action), but you don't consider that "work"

**V 16** – **Next argument Jesus made?** If they could take care of an ox or a donkey, couldn't he take care of this faithful Jewish woman?

-**What do we learn about Jesus here?** His compassion

-**The message?** We can show mercy on any day of the week, including the Sabbath

**V 17** – **Two results?** Some were humiliated and did not repent, others rejoiced at this

-**Conclusion for us today?** It is easy to see denominational groups all around us who apply the New Testament very unevenly to their members, and it is frustrating to deal with those groups

-For example, they burn incense in their worship, but they say that they don't believe that the Old Testament is for us today

## **Luke 13.18-21** – Two short parables

**V 18-19** – **The kingdom (church) is like what?** A mustard seed

-**What is the story of the parable?** The mustard seed is very tiny, but it produces a large plant

- What is the message?** The kingdom of God is very small in the eyes of the world, but it has huge results, both in this life and in the life to come
- It is the nature of the church to grow!
- It will always be growing in different parts of the world, as in India today

**V 20-21 – Another comparison?** The church is like leaven

- In what way?** The cook puts leaven in the dough, and it spreads to all the dough and expands
- Message?** God designed his kingdom to grow

## **Luke 13.22-30**

**V 22 – Why was Jesus heading toward Jerusalem?** For the crucifixion

**V 23 – Why was this question asked?** Maybe not very many were actually following Jesus

- Do we have a modern version of this question?** "Are only members of the church of Christ going to be saved?"

**V 24 – And Jesus answered,**

"Attend the church of your choice."

"There are many roads that lead to heaven – we will all get there, just by different roads"

"How could a loving God condemn anyone to hell?"

"Just be sincere – that is all that God really cares about"

-NO! - He didn't say any of the things that we hear people say all the time about God and eternal life

-**What answer did Jesus give?** "It is a narrow door that leads to heaven"

-**What can we give thanks for concerning that answer?** That there is a door!

-**How many people will be lost?** Many

-It will take all of our efforts, plus the grace of God, for anyone to be saved

-**Read 1 Peter 4.18** – a frightening verse! We will have to "strive" to make it

-**Why will many not be saved?** They want to be saved, but not enough to give up their sinful lifestyles

**V 25 – Lesson?** The days of repentance will come to an end

**V 26 – The Jews would recall seeing Jesus**

- Message today?** On the Day of Judgment there will be many people who heard the gospel preached and heard the offer to be baptized who will remember those days

**V 27 – Response of Jesus?** Depart from me

**V 28 – Real agony?** To be lost, but to see others saved

**V 29 – Who was invited into the kingdom?** All people, including the Gentiles

**V 30 – A reversal of the way things look now**

- Imagine kings and presidents being excluded from heaven!

## **Luke 13.31-35**

**V 31** – **Who warned Jesus about the threats of Herod?** The Pharisees (maybe sincere, maybe not)

-**Why was this possibly not sincere?** To get Jesus out of the area

-This was Herod Antipas, who had had John the Baptist killed

-There was also Herod Agrippa I who had the apostle James killed

-**Why would Herod want to kill Jesus?** He feared an earthly kingdom that Jesus might establish

**V 32** – **What kind of animal is the fox?** Weak, but cunning; he uses deceit to achieve his aims

-**What animal is Jesus compared to, besides a lamb?** *Rev. 5.5* – The lion of Judah

-**Did Jesus show any fear of Herod?** None whatsoever

-It was not necessarily three days until his death, but he was saying that he would determine his schedule, and he would not be rushed

**V 33** – What irony! **If one is going to be a martyr, what should he do?** He should make arrangements to get killed in Jerusalem

-**Why?** Because they had killed the prophets of the Old Testament

**V 34** – **What attitude did Jesus have toward Jerusalem?** Great sadness – they had always persecuted God's people

-**Why does a hen gather her brood under her wing?** For their protection

-But the people of Jerusalem would have nothing to do with being protected

**V 35** – A reference to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

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