

Title: Seek the Lord While He may be Found

Passage: Luke 13:1-9

Key Truths:

- Are you ready for death? Unless you repent, you will face judgment and perish.
- Repentance has two aspects
 - Change of your mind about yourself
 - You recognize you are a sinner, desperately lost, and deserving of judgment due to your sin.
 - Change of your mind with regard to who Jesus is.
 - See Jesus has complete authority over your life: He made you. He purchased you. Therefore, every part of your life belongs to Jesus.

Application:

- If you have not trusted in Christ yet: turn to Christ.
- If you are in Christ:
 - Remember that you cannot lose your salvation
 - Continue to examine yourself.
 - Keep on repenting.
 - Pray.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - Why may some believe that God doesn't have the power or authority to stop bad circumstances from happening? What would be your response?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?
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Introduction

Israel-Arab conflict

- has a long history stemming from Isaac and Ishmael. (See Genesis 17)
- Has a future that will be culminated in Revelation

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

- the depravity of man's heart is clear.

Israel has the right to retaliate

1 Samuel 30

- Amalekites came and attacked and Israelites. In response, the Israelites came and pursued them.
 - not just for justice but also for the preservation of their lives.

1 Samuel 30:17

And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled.

The government's rights and responsibilities

Romans 13:4

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

- Government has the right to take action in response to wrongs.

Evil of false religion

- any religion that is not based in Jesus Christ is Satan at his worst.
- Islam: The Koran calls for slaughter under the will of Allah.

Question: What would Jesus say about these things?

- Jesus addressed the universal issue.

Context of Passage:

Luke 12:54-56

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, 'A shower is coming.' And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Passage:

Luke 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse

sinner than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

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. 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?’ And 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.’”

EXPOSITION

Situation

Luke 13:1

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

- Pilate had slaughtered Jews.

Then-Common View

- Catastrophes or calamities only happen to bad people.
 - If something bad happens, then it was because the person to whom it happened was guilty of something.

John 9:1-2

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

- Other misperceptions: God doesn’t have the power or authority to stop bad circumstances from happening.

Jesus Response

Luke 13:2-5

And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 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? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

- Referenced another catastrophe with a tower collapse.
- Two situations: people killed by moral evil (intentional), people killed by natural evil (accident).

unless you repent, you will all likewise perish

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

- Message: you better repent or you will be caught in an even worse catastrophe that will be eternal/worse.
 - Genuine catastrophe: one dies and faces judgment without repentance.

Perish

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- Perish = eternal judgment

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

- We will all face judgment after we physically die.

Repent

- meaning = change of mind and heart
 - Also leads to change of thinking and actions in our relationship to God.
- Two aspects:
 1. Change of your mind about yourself
 - You recognize you are a sinner, desperately lost, and deserving of judgment due to your sin.

Isaiah 6:5

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

- repentance is recognition of God's judgment
 - "I have no right to God's heaven. I have no ability to rescue myself. No religion will get me there. I need mercy and righteousness that I do not deserve."
 - Recognize your desperate condition before a holy God.
2. Change of your mind with regard to who Jesus is.
- change of your perception of who Jesus is.

Romans 10:9-10

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

- See Jesus has complete authority over your life:
 - He made you.
 - He purchased you.
 - Therefore, every part of your life belongs to Jesus.

Question: Are you ready?

- Unless you repent, all will perish.
 - Message is from a heart of love.

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 14:9

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Parable

Luke 13: 6-9

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. 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?' And 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.'"

Message:

- Audience of parable:
 - both corporal (to Israel) and personal (to every person)
- Is your only hope in Christ and in the cross?

Message of grace

- Repent while you can.

APPLICATION

If you have not trusted in Christ yet: trust in Christ

- You are living on borrowed time.
- Life can end at any time.

Isaiah 55:6-7

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

If you are in Christ:

Remember that you cannot lose your salvation.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 10:28-29

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

Continue to examine yourself.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Keep on repenting

Psalms 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Ephesians 4:1

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Pray for others

- only God can change hearts.
 - Lack of prayer is lack of love.
- Pray for others and as opportunity arises, share and point to Jesus.

James 5:16b

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

Pray for our nation

- We need to pray.

2 Chronicles 7:14

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Pray for Israel and for the world

- pray for what God will do for His glory.