

You are Not so Special

Luke 13:1-9

Theme: Tragedy is not to be seen as divine punishment but as a warning to all humanity of its need to repent.

1) TWO TRAGEDIES AND TWO TRUTHS

- A) Moral _____ and universal _____
- B) The need for repentance and the _____ of divine judgement.

2) THE POINT ILLUSTRATED THROUGH PARABLE

- A) A _____ Fig Tree
- B) A _____ Landlord
- C) A _____ Gardener

3) NO FRUIT NO POINT

The question to ask when a tragedy strikes, is not where is God? But where am I?

It ought to remind us of:

- A) The _____ of our existence.
- B) That Life itself is very _____.
- C) That God is _____.
- D) That we need to repent and settle our _____ with God before it's too late.

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Small Group Questions

REFLECT

1. What common idea was Jesus confronting in verse 2 (see Acts 28:4; John 9:2)? Do bad things only happen to bad people? In order to understand how Jesus' listeners thought about human suffering read Job 4:7-9 as well as Psalm 1:3-4. According to these verses do people get what their actions deserve? Compare this with Psalm 73.
2. What is true about all people (see Romans 3:10; Romans 3:23)? What do all deserve (Romans 6:23)? What does God give us every day instead (see Lamentations 3:22-23)?
3. What additional situation does Jesus remind the crowd about in v.4? What is different about this situation from the temple incident in verses 1-3?
4. Does anything happen without God's knowledge of it (Luke 12:6-7)? What comfort should that give us?
5. Read Romans 2:4-5. What is it that God usually uses to bring us to repentance? How can even community disasters like the tower falling be a reminder of God's patience with those who survive?
6. What are we doing when we do not respond to such incidents by examining our own hearts and dealing with our own sin (Romans 2:5)? What should God's kindness lead us to?
7. Who is the fig tree that Jesus is referring to in v.6? What similar agricultural picture did God use to describe Israel (Psalm 80:8-13; Isaiah 5:1-4; Jeremiah 2:21)?
8. What is the main concern of the master (God)? Is his concern justified? Is it reasonable? What did Jesus tell his disciples in these verses: John 15:2, 4, 8, 16?
9. Read Matthew 21:19-21 and Mark 11:12-14. What does Jesus mean when he says, "Let no fruit ever grow on you again?"

RESPOND

When tragedy strikes people often question God's fairness. "God I don't deserve this". How can we correct people's false thinking and use this as an opportunity to share the Gospel?

Is there someone in your circle of friends or family who needs to hear this message? Pray for them tonight and ask God for an opportunity to share with them this week.

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