

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

SERMON OUTLINE

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“A Lesson on Repentance and The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree”

Luke 13:1-9

A question that was clearly on the minds of those gathered around Jesus in *Luke 13*. “Why is there so much tragedy and suffering in the world?” One can hardly open a newspaper or watch the evening news on TV without experiencing some senseless, brutal event.

Both the Jews and Greeks at the time of Jesus believed an individual was punished for their sins. So, if you suffered, it was because you deserved it.

From our scripture passage in *Luke 13*, Jesus is going to teach us about the importance of **REPENTANCE**. In all times and in every situation, Jesus urges people to repent and believe.

I. THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE (13:1-5)

A. Human Atrocities Should Cause Us to Repent

(13:1-3) Luke is the only Biblical author who mentions this atrocity.

Jesus therefore made it clear that human tragedies are not always divine punishments and that it is wrong for us to “*play God*” and pass judgment.

B. Natural Disasters Should Cause Us to Repent (13:4-5)

Once again, this is the only place in the Bible where this incident is mentioned. The people in Jesus’ day thought that misfortune was the result of misdeeds. The tower fell because they were sinners.

The people in Jesus’ day thought that misfortune was the result of misdeeds. The tower fell because they were sinners. But the greatest need is repentance and just what is repentance? **It is about making a U turn in your life from the road that leads to destruction to the road that leads to life eternal.**

2. THE URGENCY OF REPENTANCE (13:6-9)

To stress the urgency of repentance, Jesus told this parable (13:6a). He said that a man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard (13:6b). The tree grew and when it was old enough to bear fruit, but did not.

The man was concerned that the tree was using valuable nutrients that the other plants could use, and he was disgusted that the fig tree was useless by not producing fruit *V-7*. But the vinedresser interceded, and he answered him *V-8*.

There are several lessons to learn from this parable.

1. **The first lesson is that those who fail to produce fruit in keeping with repentance will be cut down in judgment.**
2. **The second lesson is that judgment is near.**
3. **The third lesson is that the delay in judgment is not due to any worthiness in us.**
4. **And the fourth lesson is that God’s patience toward unrepentant sinners is not permanent.**

Therefore, having analyzed the topic of repentance as set forth in *Luke 13:1-9*, we should repent and produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

It is significant that the parable was “open-ended,” so that the listeners had to supply the conclusion. We have no way to know the answers to these questions, ***but we can answer as far as our own lives are concerned!*** Again, the question is not “What happened to the tree?” but “What will happen to *me*?”

God is seeking fruit. He will accept no substitutes, and the time to repent is NOW. The next time you hear about a tragedy that claims many lives, ask yourself, “Am I just taking up space, or am I bearing fruit to God’s glory?”