

God is patient with the guilty – Luke 13:1-9

I. Punishment is Deserved (1-5)

A. Is God's Punishment Always Due to Extraordinary Sin? (1-2; 4-5)

1. Jesus is asked about the suffering of religious men (1)
 - a. Pilate had killed Galileans giving sacrifices
 - b. They were doing what was right (Judaism)
 - c. They couldn't understand why God allowed them to die
2. Jesus asks them about the Galilean's sinfulness (2)
 - a. Do you think they were worse sinners than others?
 - b. Do you think they died because they were bad?
3. Jesus asks them about others involved in an accident (4)
 - a. There were eighteen involved in an accident
 - b. The tower of Siloam fell on them
 - c. Jesus showed them men who died for no reason (seemingly)
 - d. Were they worse sinners than other people?

B. All Men Deserve the Punishment Of God (3, 5)

1. Jesus said, unless you repent, you will also perish
2. The question is "why didn't it happen to me."
 - a. Because of sin, man deserves the worst circumstances
 - b. The fact that we live daily without tragedy is God's act of mercy

II. Patience is Delivered (6-9) The Parable of the Fruitless Tree

A. The Tree is Found Fruitless (6-7)

1. The fig tree was bearing no fruit (6)
 - a. The owner came to the tree he planted
 - God has created and owns us
 - We are to bear fruit for Him
 - b. The owner found no fruit on the tree
2. The fig tree had never bore fruit (7a)
 - a. The owner had sought fruit for three years
 - Sinners can do nothing good for God
 - Sinners can do nothing righteous
 - Every good they do is stained with sin
3. The fig tree is worthless (7b)
 - a. The owner said cut it down
 - b. It was using up the ground
 - Sinners deserve judgment
 - At any moment, God would be right to bring judgment
 - God would be good to do so

B. The Vinedresser Intercedes for the Tree (8-9)

1. The Vinedresser asks for Time to Nurture the Tree (8)
 - a. He wants to dig around the tree
 - b. He wants to fertilize the tree
 - Christ intercedes for us as well
 - Every time we sin, Christ intercedes

- God is patient because of the atonement
- He is continually working

2. The Vinedresser will Work and then assess the tree

- a. There will come a time when it is too late
- b. Christ works, Holy Spirit draws, seeking fruit
 - Conversion, repentance, salvation
- c. There will come a day when either fruit or cut down
- d. Could be today