



God's Desire for Fruitfulness

Luke 13:1-9

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

4 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? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

6 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. 7 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?'

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

From the Jews' Perspective

- Their view of suffering

From the Jews' Perspective

- Their view of suffering
- Jesus' warning

From the Jews' Perspective

- Their view of suffering
- Jesus' warning
- Jesus' intercession for them - Is 5:1-9;
Luke 13:34; Luke 19:41-44

Luke 13:34 ESV

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!

Luke 19:41-44 ESV

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Luke 19:41-44 ESV

43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

From the Jews' Perspective

- Their view of suffering
- Jesus' warning
- Jesus' intercession for them - Is 5:1-9; Luke 13:34; Luke 19:41-44
- They now are a warning for us



Luke 13:5 ESV

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

From Our Perspective

- **What kind of fruit is God looking for?**
 - The Fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22-23
 - Fruits worthy of repentance - Luke 3:7-14
 - The fruit of good works - Matt. 5:14-16

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Luke 3:7-14 ESV

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "... 8 **Bear fruits in keeping with repentance.** ... 11 ...Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise. ... 13 ...Collect no more than you are authorized to do.... 14 ... Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

Matthew 5:14-16 ESV

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so **that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**

From Our Perspective

- What kind of fruit is God looking for?
- **What other fruit might He find?**
 - Bad/wicked fruit - Matt. 7:15-20; Luke 6:45; Gal. 5:19-21
 - Dead fruit - Matt. 6:1-7; Heb. 9:14

Matthew 7:15-20 ESV

"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 **You will recognize them by their fruits.** Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Galatians 5:19-21 ESV

Now **the works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:1-6 ESV

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. 2

"Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Matthew 6:1-6 ESV

3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:1-6 ESV

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

From Our Perspective

- What kind of fruit is God looking for?
- What other fruit might He find?
- **How does He encourage us to bear fruit?**
 - By digging and fertilizing - Luke 13:8
 - By pruning - John 15:1-2

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

8 And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9 Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'



John 15:1-2 ESV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

From Our Perspective

- What kind of fruit is God looking for?
- What other fruit might He find?
- How does He encourage us to bear fruit?
- **What will He do if we continue unfruitful?**
 - We will be cut down – Luke 13:9
 - We will be cut off, wither and burn
- John 15:2, 5-6
 - We will be cut down and burned - Luke 3:7-9

Luke 13:1-9 ESV

7 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?'**

John 15:5-6 ESV

I am the vine; you are the branches.

Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.**

Luke 3:7-9 ESV

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. ... 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. **Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**"

Questions

- What does God find in your life and my life today?
 - Good fruit?
 - Dead fruit?
 - Bad fruit?

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- How long has He been coming back seeking good fruit and finding none?
- For which of us is Jesus pleading with the Father for “one more year”?