

## Luke 13:1–9

“Recognizing and Taking Opportunities for Repentance”

***How should we respond when calamity strikes?** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. In these nine verses, the Lord Jesus continues the theme, from the end of chapter 12, of being reconciled with God before we have to stand before Him at the judgment. When calamity and death befall others or threaten us, it is a fertile opportunity for us to examine ourselves, turn from sin unto Christ, and grow more fruitful by His grace.*

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](http://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))**

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Luke 13 verses 1 through 9, these are God's words. There were President that season some who told him about the Galileans. Whose blood pilot had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners and all other Galileans because they suffered such things.

I tell you no. But unless you repent you will all likewise perish or those 18 on whom the Tower in Siloam fell and killed them. Do you think that they were worse sinners in all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you no, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

He also spoke this parable. A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard look for three years. I've come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down.

Why does it use up the ground? But he answered and said to him sir, let alone this year also until I dig down dig around it and fertilize it and if it bears fruit well, but if not after that, you can cut it down. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word.

So you may remember that last time in Luke we were hearing about Jesus tell us that. We need to understand the time that we are in and that we are in the time between his first coming and his second coming. And that we will soon see our master who will come at a time that we do not expect whether by his return with the Holy Angels or by our being taken from this world many people leave this world unexpectedly.

And that until the until our time in this world is done we are to be serving our master and serving him in the way that we will want to have been caught serving him. When he comes suddenly but then he ended. By telling us that before we face our judge we should make sure that we are reconciled with him and Jesus is the judge and the only way to be reconciled with him is to turn from our sin and trust an end so that his righteousness may be counted for us as our worthiness and his sacrifice and put away take away all of the guilt of our sin and the punishment that we deserve.

And so our first verse says there were present at that season some who told him about the Galileans whose blood pilot had mingled with their sacrifices and seems to be that marvelously considering how people often responded to his teaching they understood what he was saying. And they were saying all we know some people who are not reconciled to the judge and suddenly pilot slaughtered them.

But Jesus recognizes that they are not recognizing their own need for repentance. They're doing as Peter had done and as we were all prone to do pay attention to how much everybody else needs to hear these words from Jesus and not to ourselves and he says, do you suppose that they were worse sinners because they died that way?

We're all going to die because we're all sinners and we all have need of repentance. Before we face the judge. And so he says, do you think that those Galileans were worse than any other Galileans? He says no I tell you verse three unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Don't think that their death is more cursed than your death or that your death will be less cursed than their death without repentance your death is the gateway into hell for you. You must turn from your sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and every one of you must do this for yourself.

It's not enough to be a son or a daughter brother or sister in a family where the Lord Jesus is generally known a household that belongs to him it's not enough to be a member of a congregation that belongs to him. Galilee was a region in Israel. Jerusalem was the city where was the temple of all the cities on earth perhaps the most holy and set apart to God, there are many who still call it the holy land and the holy city.

And he says and is not just Galileans either he takes us straight to Jerusalem, he says, he's the one who says or those 18 on him the tower in solo and fell. Do you think that they were worth sinners and all others who all men who dwell in Jerusalem?

I tell you know, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish and so God sometimes does things in Galilee and sometimes he does things in Jerusalem and sometimes he does things in the United States of America to remind us that we are going to die. And that the reason we are going to die is because we are sinners and when you see a great calamity happening and you remember that life in this world is limited by death because we're sinners it reminds you how utterly we need to be reconciled to God to have things made right between us and God to be made right just before God what's called justification?

And the only way to be made righteous with God is by Jesus being your righteousness for you you trusting him. To be your righteousness. Do

you trust him to take away the punishment and guilt that you? The guilt that you have in the punishment that you deserve. Now. We know which ones have repented because when Jesus is your righteousness and he takes away your punishment he also produces fruit in you.

And this is what you should be doing is providing fruit. Every time you hear about a calamity disaster or death, it happens to somebody you have an opportunity to say, oh. That's a good point am I burying the kind of fruit that the master is looking for? Because the fig tree in verses 6 through 9 was not bearing that kind of fruit in the master was going to destroy it.

But the master is patient and he gives us every opportunity and sometimes that opportunity comes in the form of suffering or trial or a great disaster that happens to you or to someone else. To remind you. That you don't exist for yourself you exist for the Lord. When we pray that you would help us to take all the opportunities we have and of course it doesn't just happen with disasters.

It especially happens in the means of grace. That we would take times like this when we're reading the Bible thinking about it as an opportunity to grow in bearing fruit and loving and obeying and serving the Lord. Take our times of prayer as an opportunity to grow and loving and obeying and serving the Lord.

Take when we may have the Lord's Supper or observe a baptism or reflect upon our own baptism. As an opportunity to grow in loving the Lord in obeying the Lord and servant. The Lord. Lest we be a fruitless tree. That looks like it's the right kind. The fig tree was associated with Israel.

But. Even if you look like you're the right kind of tree if you're not bearing fruit, then you have no life in you you don't have the life of Christ in you and if you don't have the life of Christ in you then you don't belong to Christ and if you don't belong to Christ then his righteousness has not been counted for you and his cross is not put away your sin.

So you need to trust in Christ and bear fruit and don't miss opportunities for repentance and growth.

We thank you Lord for this portion of your word. In which you arrest our attention and call us. To repentance and faith. And growth and walking with you we pray that you would grow us. By the grace of Christ and by the knowing of Christ. So that we would bear fruit.

Lord help us not to be those who. First apply what we hear to others. But grant that ministry of your spirit to make our hearts tender towards you. That we would be primarily inclined. To apply your word to ourselves. And only secondarily out of love and service to anybody else.

Do this we pray in Jesus name. Amen.