

# “Perishables & Non-Perishables”

## Luke 13:1-9

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 24, 2022

**Luke 13:1-9** “There were some present at that very time who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And He answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> 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? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’”

“<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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?” <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, “Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: **Thanks Be To God!**

### I. “Bad Things Happen to Bad People” is Bad Theology!

**Luke 13:2,4** “And He answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> 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? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’”

A. Sometimes the hardest trials are what God uses to produce the greatest fruit in your life.

#### 8 Reasons Why God Allows Bad Things To Happen To You

1. God will **prove your faith** to you and others. (Job 1:7ff)
2. God will **teach you to not depend on yourself**. (2 Cor. 1:8-9)
3. God will **remind you of your heavenly hope**. (Rom. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:17-18)
4. God will **reveal to you who you really love**. (Acts 5:41; 1 Pet. 4:13)
6. God will **teach you obedience**. (Psa. 119:67,71)
7. God will **show you His compassion**. (Psa. 103:13; 2 Cor. 1:4-5)
8. God will **prepare you for greater usefulness**. (James 1:2-4)
9. God will **equip you to comfort others**. (2 Cor. 1:4,6)

B. Remember - that God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God! (Rom. 8:28)

## II. You Need to Know That You Are Living On Borrowed Time!

A. If you've escaped calamity thus far, you will not do so forever.

**Luke 13:6-9** "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. <sup>7</sup> 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?" <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

**Luke 13:3,5** "<sup>2</sup> And He answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> 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? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'"

B. Repentance means you change your mind about yourself and turn away from sin.

**Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*If you're impressed with yourself,  
you won't be impressed by God.*

C. Repentance means believe Jesus Christ is your only Savior, and turn to Him!

**Luke 24:45-47** "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.'"

### **Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:**

1. When was the last time you were tempted to connect a natural disaster or worldly phenomenon with a supernatural reason?
2. Take another look at the list of "8 Reasons Why God Allows Bad Things To Happen To You." As you look back at the hardest seasons of your life, which of those reasons resonate with you? Which of those might be something God is doing in your life right now?
3. What do Acts 5:31, Acts 11:18, 2 Tim. 2:25, and Rom. 2:4 tell us about repentance?
4. Pastor Peter said, "If you're impressed with yourself, you won't be impressed by God." What did he mean?
5. When it comes to evangelism and discipleship, is the concept of "borrowed time" important to understand and help others to realize? Why or why not?