

## The Great Physician

### Luke 13:1-21

- Jesus is on His way to the cross but as important of a task that is, He is never too busy to stop and answer some questions. Previously Jesus has been correcting Israel's complacent attitude about eternity and their inability to discern the times in which they live. He told them their able to tell the weather and when a storm is coming then take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and that which is important to them, but here is God walking among them and they are completely clueless even though scriptures prophesied that He'd come and what He'd do.

### V1-21

- **V1-5** after hearing Jesus talk about eternity the people want to know well what do we do about the present? They ask Jesus about the unfair thing Pilate the appointed prefect of Judea by Rome did in massacring Galileans who had come to Jerusalem to worship and Pilate ordered them killed while they offered sacrifices and mingled their spilled blood into those same sacrifices. This was both a **political question** and a **spiritual question** wrapped up in one.
- Pilate didn't get along with the Jews because he was insensitive to their religious convictions, when he first came into Jerusalem, he put Roman ensigns everywhere including in the temple and it caused a riot as the Jews resented having Caesars image in the Holy City and in the temple so they rebelled and it almost cost Pilate his position as governor over Judea. So the question was **political** as they were asking should we seek to overthrow Pilate for what he has done?
- It also was also **spiritual** because some Jews believed that since God allowed this to happen then these Galileans must have done something really wrong that nobody knows about for them to die in such a horrible way and while attempting to offer sacrifices to the Lord, therefore God must have been mad at them not to protect them from such a terrible tragedy.
- Jesus answers this question by mentioning another seemingly horrible thing that was well known that happened in their day, and by doing so He moved the whole issue a higher level bypassing the politics of His day. So instead of discussing Pilate's sins He spoke about the sins of the people as a whole, and in doing so He answers both their political question and their spiritual question. You think that those who suffered like this are worse sinners than you, and you think he who did this horrible thing is in a worse place than you?
- Remember the tower of Siloam, which was in the southern part of Israel, they thought they were better than the Galileans who lived in the northern part of Israel and considered them uneducated and backwards. The tower fell unexpectedly and killed eighteen people, do you think they worse sinners than the rest of the people who escaped that tragedy?
- Jesus tells them those Galileans were no worse sinners than any other, and how a person dies is not always indicative of how God feels about them, in fact its not about how you die that's the most important thing, Jesus says, its about who it is that you have put your trust in while you lived that counts. Jesus didn't get into the politics of the day or indulge their spiritual heresies.

- He simply kept the conversation upon that which is what's really important > (salvation). That's what is really important, are you saved, have you repented, will you spend eternity with Jesus, apart from that is it really that important who you voted for, or whether someone died in a plane crash or in their sleep, they all will suffer the same fate unless they've repented and received forgiveness. Jesus puts life in its proper perspective, it's about life after death not what caused your death, in this life death is inevitable, whether its by natural causes or unnatural causes.
- To illustrate His point even more Jesus shares a parable of a fig tree to give us some insight into God's judgment. Since its been established that **"unless you repent you will likewise perish"** Jesus shares some interesting insights into all of this > **1<sup>st</sup>** produce some fruit of salvation – the fruit of our lives shows what kind of person we really are. **2<sup>nd</sup>** God is looking for fruit – just as the farmer came looking for fruit on that tree he planted so God comes fruit inspecting into our lives
- **3<sup>rd</sup>** God gives us time to produce fruit- He didn't judge the tree as barren right away, but at specific times He came looking for fruit and sadly found none, in fact He says He did this for three years and that tree never brought forth any fruit. When it was suggested that the tree get cut down notice the keeper asked for more time before the tree is removed all together, this is Jesus Christ in His grace and mercy > **2 Pet 3:9**- God gives people time to repent. **4<sup>th</sup>** God gives a time limit- eventually if man doesn't respond to God's grace there will be judgment.
- **V10-13** you talk about majoring in the minors, this story illustrates for us how many can be so caught up in the wrong things that they can't see what's good even though its right in front of them. A woman who has been afflicted for eighteen years, bent over so bad that she couldn't even raise herself up, also were told that this infirmity didn't happen from the regular trial's of life but **"a spirit of infirmity"** meaning this was physical problem was demonically influenced.
- Jesus calls her over to Him, I must share this, you can believe that this woman had prayed and asked the Lord to heal her plenty of times before this and yet we find her where? In the Synagogue, I know a lot of people who have given up when times have gotten hard and the time limit of their patience has worn out, so they quit and blame God. If she hadn't been in church Jesus wouldn't have called her over to Him, but she is and she's healed, folks make sure you show up for you never know when God is going to show out on your behalf amen!
- **V14** after Jesus shows everyone His compassion and authority, it is met with anger over Jesus healing the woman on the Sabbath. He would rather have this woman suffer another day instead of seeing her released and freed from this demonic stronghold in her life. He cared more about his rules and regulations than he did about people being set free, you can clearly see that in the mind of this man he had totally forgotten her but the Lord sees her and He heals her. Man may forget about you but not the Lord, He knows everything about you and He loves you.
- **V15-17** Jesus exposes the hypocrisy in telling the man if something personal of his was lost or in need no matter what day it is you will help it, but here this woman who has been in bondage to Satan for almost two decades you want her to remain in pain. Think about it they were willing to help an animal who doesn't have a soul on the Sabbath but not a person who is suffering badly.

- **V18-19** Jesus gives two parables to show the crowd that even in the Kingdom Satan seeks to infiltrate, a mustard tree is not very large its more like a bush than a tree, but its big enough for birds to nest in. So the Church which is a small minority in the population still grows large enough that it provides shelter and safety to people even though it's a small part of society. Notice a mustard seed doesn't determine what kind of birds nest in it but simply the birds.
- **V20-21** we see this concept here as leaven is representative of the church, leaven rises but it also depicts sin in scripture, so although the church does have an impact it still contains sin. So instead of the pure milk of the word mentioned in **1Pet 2:1-2**, often people will receive the sour substitute of the world which introduces the ways of the flesh and not the spirit.