

# Fateful Continuance

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## Fateful Continuance

**Luke 13:1–9** (NASB95)

*Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate?*

*I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

*Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?*

*I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”*

*And He began telling this parable: A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. And he said to the vineyard-keeper, “Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?” And he answered and said to him, “Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and if it bears fruit next year, fine; but if not, cut it down.”*

Tragedy of any sort can be hard for us to process. Especially where loss of life is concerned. When it occurs, it can be perceived as unfortunate, unfair, unjust, or possibly as the of judgment of God for one's sins or evil acts. In a world that denies God, it may be understood as Karma or one's "just desserts," the proverbial "What goes around comes around."

Among the Jews, especially the pious Jews present in the time of Jesus' ministry, suffering and tragedy was seen as the result of one's sinfulness. This was what was being inferred by those seeking the response of Jesus concerning this latest headline.

Pilate, Rome's political leader in Judea at the time, had executed some Galileans while they were in the temple offering sacrifices. Galilee was a hotbed for anti-Roman activists, and this event might have been related to some type of rebellious squelch or political statement by the powers that be. Regardless, it was a violent tragedy. These victims suffered a horrific death.

Jesus brought up another recent tragedy where eighteen people died in a horrible accident. This too, was apparently looked upon as some sort of judgment. However, Jesus made it clear to them that this was not the case.

In this world there is much suffering because of sin; sometimes it can be the result of personal sin, or it may be because of the sins of others, or it may just be an unexplainable occurrence.

The truth of the matter is that tragedy can strike anytime, anywhere, to anybody, and without any warning. Therefore, the truth revealed here by Jesus is most urgent! Unless one repents, they too, will perish. Jesus is speaking to the fact that everyone will face the judgment of God for the sin in their life.

To repent is to change. This change begins in the mind which leads to the heart and is realized in the conduct and actions of one's life.

“Therefore, bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” (- John / Matthew 3:8)

True repentance occurs when one yields to Christ, and the result is righteousness.

**Romans 6:13** (NASB95) Do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Repentance is the act of turning away from doing wrong and the start of doing things right as determined by God. The biblical terms for this are unrighteousness and/or sin and righteousness and/or good works.

Repentance leads to a new life of sanctification. This is another very important, biblical word. Sanctification is the continuum of change that takes place in one's life as they are being conformed to the life of Jesus Christ revealed in the word of God. This is the life taught and lived by Jesus who was the Word made flesh.

The command to repent is urgent as Jesus would go on to reveal in His parable of the fig tree. (Lk. 13:6-9)

The man who planted the fig tree is God. The gardener or caretaker is the Christ (Jesus) who intercedes for the fig tree (Israel) with the planter (God) that He will stay His judgment (uprooting the tree) until He (Christ) had exhausted every effort to get the tree (Israel) to bear fruit. What constituted the bearing of fruit would be Israel's repentance from sin and acceptance of Jesus as their messiah and savior.

The bible tells us that God is longsuffering regarding our repentance. However, His patience does end, and the resulting judgment is just.

We are living in a closing window of opportunity called grace. God's wrath has been revealed against all unrighteousness of man, and He has reserved a day for judgment.

For now, God has withheld His judgment. He has done and is doing all He can to save us! Up to this moment, He is still allowing the preaching of the gospel. He is still sending the Holy Spirit to convict the heart of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and He has gifted us with another day of life.

Jesus said to those listening to Him that if they did not repent, they would all perish. Unknowing to them, approximately forty years later, their whole nation would be destroyed by the Romans. A tragedy far beyond what happened to those few in the temple or those eighteen on whom a wall fell upon.

God's word bears the question...

**Romans 6:16** (NASB95) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

**Romans 6:23** (NASB95) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Don't resist Christ! Don't ignore the revelation of God's word when it reveals your unrighteousness! Don't grieve the Holy Spirit of God!

Submit, surrender, and yield your will to the lifechanging power of God.