

Lifeline

Jesus is Our Savior from Destruction

Luke 13:1-9

We have been in a series entitled “*Lifeline*” in the Gospel of Luke. With each week, we are learning more about how Jesus is our lifeline in every situation. Today, we turn to Luke 13:1-9 to see...

Main Idea: Jesus offers a Lifeline out of Destruction by Calling for Repentance

“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell & killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. And he told them this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, & he came seeking fruit on it & found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, & I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it & put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well & good; but if not, you can cut it down.” **Luke 13:1-9**

I. Destructiveness of Comparison

“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” **John 9:1-3**

“He made it clear that human tragedies are not always divine punishments & that it is wrong for us to ‘play God’ & pass judgment.” **Warren Wiersbe**

“For he makes his sun rise on the evil & on the good, & sends rain on the just & on the unjust.” **Matthew 5:45b**

Jesus would not allow his disciples to hang blame on anybody for their suffering, but instead instructed them to trust God’s sovereign will.

Question: *“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?... do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?”* **Luke 13:2b, 4b**

Answer: *“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish... No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”* **Luke 13:3, 5**

“The question is not, ‘Why did these people die?’ But, ‘What right do you have to live?’...It is easier to talk about other people’s deaths than it is to face our own sin & possible death.” **Warren Wiersbe**

II. The Destructiveness of Delaying

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, & then the heavens will pass away with a roar, the heavenly bodies will be burned up & dissolved, & the earth & the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

2 Peter 3:9-10

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” **Matthew 24:44**

Jesus’ disciples appear to have embraced a Buddhist, Hindu & mainstream modern worldview called *Karma*. The word itself means *action, word or deed*, but the spiritual definition is all about cause & effect. The belief is that whatever a person thinks, says or does will be returned to him in time. So, if you think, say or do good things, then you can expect good things. It sounds good, but grace is better!

Grace vs. Karma: Can you tell the difference?

Karma - *“God helps those who help themselves.”*

Grace: *“For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”* **Romans 5:6 (NASB)**

Karma - *“God will not put more on you than you can bear.”*

Grace: *“For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, & he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.”* **2 Corinthians 1:8-10**

Karma - *“If you will be a good person, it will all work out.”*

Grace: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God –not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Repent: A change of mind (belief), that results in a changed life (behavior).

“On that day, many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, & cast our demons in your name, & do many mighty works in your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” **Matthew 7:22-23**

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgkin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *NAC: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Holman Commentary: Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke: That You May Know the Truth* – Kent Hughes (1998)
- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Jesus Freaks* – Voice of the Martyrs (1999)

