

WHO NEEDS TO REPENT?

Luke 13:1-9

I. THE DOCTRINE OF RETRIBUTION

- A. *“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus?” (Luke 13:2)*
- B. Acts of God, Acts of Nature, or Acts of Man?
 - 1. It seems like we have lived a lifetime since September 11, 2001. Was it an Act of God or an Act of Man?
 - 2. Hurricane Katrina hits. There is a terrible Tsunami in Asia. Was it an Act of God or an Act of Nature?
- C. The Primary Theology of the Day.
 - 1. Goodness results in prosperity and blessing.
 - 2. Wickedness results in suffering and pain.
- D. God’s Theology.
 - 1. Suffering and pain were not part of God’s original plan.
 - 2. Even though God hates pain, God can also redeem it.

II. THE DOCTRINE OF REPENTANCE

- A. *“I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (vs. 3)*
- B. Jesus the Judge.
 - 1. It’s easy to find fault with others.
 - 2. Jesus points the finger back at us.
- C. Confession and Repentance.
 - 1. *“Whatever we are, we are not what we ought to be.” (Augustine)*
 - 2. *“Man was made at the end of the week, when God was tired.” (Mark Twain)*
 - 3. Most of us are willing to confess our sins as long as we don’t have to change (repent).
- D. Three Aspects of Sin.
 - 1. Our relationship with others.
 - 2. Our relationship with ourselves.
 - 3. Our relationship with God.

III. THE DOCTRINE OF FORGIVENESS

- A. *And he answered him, “Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it ... And if it bears fruit next year, well and good ...” (Luke 13:8-9)*
- B. What Forgiveness Is Not.
 - 1. It is not excusing.
 - 2. It is not forgetting.
 - 3. It is not reconciling.
- C. What Forgiveness Is.
 - 1. It is giving up the quest to get even.
 - 2. It involves a new way of seeing and feeling.
 - 3. The final phase is when you wish the other person well.
- D. The Miracle of Forgiveness.
 - 1. It leads to the healing of a heart.
 - 2. It’s never too late.

Prayer Concerns: Members – Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, Dorys Dawson, Harry Hart, Ruth Dale Hurt, **Joe McDowell**, Anne Miller, Carol Webb ... **Friends** – **Dr. Robin Algee**, Janie Canada, Arletta Crane, Clara Garrett, Margaret Gauldin, Becky Gibbs, Debra Holt, Lawrence Lusk, David Smith, Alan Voss ...

Christian Sympathy is extended to **Tommy Lewis and family** on the death of his father, **W.H. Lewis**.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Almighty God, who watches over us and hears our prayers, who inspires us when we are strong and carries us when we are weak, help us during this Lenten season to take stock of ourselves and make us more willing to lose our lives in order to gain them.

Help us to get over the fear of letting go. Help us to count the things we hold most dear as things to be most freely given away. Help us lose those parts in all of us which keep us from finding ourselves in you.

Teach us to hate the things you hate and love the things you love, that we may be blessed by the grace and joy of living in communion with you and one another.

At our work, make us diligent so that we will be workers who have no need to be ashamed. In our pleasure, help us find delight only in those things that bring no regret. In our homes, make us kind and considerate, always trying to make the work of others easier. Help us always to ask of ourselves what difference we are making for you.

This is our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

LUKE 13:1-9

There were some present at that very time who told him of 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 thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

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. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

March 18	<i>Loving a Loser</i> (No 8:30 a.m. Service)	Luke 15:11-32
March 25	<i>Who's Driving the Bus?</i>	Mark 5:2-13
April 1	<i>The King Is Coming</i> Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-40
April 8	<i>Have You Seen the Lord?</i> Easter Sunday	John 20:1-18
April 15	<i>Easter Reflections and Anthems</i> (10:40 a.m. Worship Only)	Chancel Choir

On the Radio (1450 AM):

March 18	<i>Jacob's Ladder</i>	Genesis 28:10-19
March 25	<i>Searching for Contentment</i>	Philippians 4:4-8