

Getting Started

Let's continue the discussion at the heart of this sermon series ... If **God is just** and holy and good, then how do evil and misery exist? How might you respond to someone who asks a question like this?

Discussion

- Read Luke 13:5 and summarize the two accounts of calamity and loss of life.
 1. Galileans killed at the temple (13:1-3)
 2. 18 who died at the pool of Siloam in Jerusalem (13:4-5)

In that day, it was believed by many that disaster and sudden death always signified God's divine judgement for sin/evil. Those who suffered in uncommon ways were therefore assumed to be guilty of some more severe immorality (see John 9:2). In the two accounts in Luke 13, the people are asking Jesus about the subject of our series – what about evil – wickedness – human suffering – did these things happen because the people were bad/evil? Today we would turn it around and say why were such good people killed in this way – they were not deserving of such a thing.

- What was the point of Jesus' questions related to each story of calamity? How might people respond to these two questions today?
 - *"Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? (13:3)*
 - *"Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? (Luke 13:4)*
- Jesus says that if you are asking "If God... Why Evil, then you are asking the wrong question." What is the point of Jesus' response to both accounts? "But unless you repent, you too will perish."
- What did Pastor Lee mean when he said that *"death is life's change agent"*?

"Jesus did not deny the connection between catastrophe and human evil, for all such afflictions ultimately stem from the curse of humanity's fallenness (Genesis 3:17-19). Furthermore, specific calamities may indeed be the fruit of certain iniquities (Proverbs 24:16). But Jesus challenged the people's notion that they were morally superior to those who suffered in such catastrophes. He called all to repent, for all were in danger of sudden destruction. No one is guaranteed time to prepare for death, so now is the time for repentance for all." – John MacArthur

- What is the biblical definition of "repentance"?
- What does it mean to "perish" (consider John 3:16)

- In Luke 13:6-9, Jesus concludes with a parable of a fig tree that was not bearing fruit. How does this parable illustrate God's patience and grace (2 Peter 3:9) as well as the need for not only repentance but fruit in keeping with repentance (Acts 26:20, Ephesians 2:10)?

- In light of the coming judgment (2 Peter 3:1-18), how should we live (by God's grace and through the power of the Holy Spirit)? Based on what Peter wrote in this passage, what should it look like in the lives of those who have repented of their sin, been saved by grace through faith, and desire to live for the glory of God?
 - Live holy and godly lives ...
 - Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless, and at peace with him ...
 - Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior ...
 - To him be glory both now and forever more.

Prayer