

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 6: Luke 13:1-9 ESV

Do Not Be Deceived: Repentant Ones are Fruitful Ones!

Services: Sunday, February 28 at 8:00 or 10:45

Church Year: Third Sunday in Lent – 2016

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends: When *hell-bound rascals* are transformed into *heaven-bound saints*, that radical change will also be accompanied by *the fruits of repentance*!

In the first part of today's sermon, Jesus is going to set our focus on **the need for everyone to repent**; then, in the second part, Jesus is going to show us that **all repentant ones will bear the fruits of repentance**.

1. **Jesus Calls Everyone to Repent:**

a. The slain Galileans: The first tragic event!

- i. ¹ **There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. // What happened? When animals were being killed for sacrifice, some Galileans were also killed – *so the Temple of God was polluted with human blood!***
- ii. ² **And [Jesus] answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in [that] way? ³ No,**

I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. // So, *repentance is important!*

- iii. **How do you view the suffering of others?**
 Dr. Kretzmann wrote: “The suffering of the world is the result of sin. In the case of the unbelievers the suffering is nothing but punishment, with a view, however, of leading them to repentance. In the case of believers, suffering of every kind is chastisement [*discipline*] at the hands of the Father, who punishes in time that we may be spared in eternity” (NT 1:339).

b. The great collapse: The second tragic event!

- i. **⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them:** // What happened? We don’t know the details, but it was certainly a heartbreaking death; *none planned to die, and yet they did!*
- ii. [Then those present were asked by Jesus:] **do you think that [those 18] were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?** **⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.** // So, what is repentance? It is a change of **heart, attitude, and action!** The BIG repentance is from ***hell-bound rascal*** to ***heaven-bound saint***; then, what follows, is *a life of repentance!*

1. **Heart** – God works that change!

2. **Attitude** – That change comes from the heart!
3. **Action** – God guides and empowers new actions that honor Him!

2. **Repentance Will Bear Fruit:** ⁶ **And [Jesus] told this parable:** Keep in mind that a parable is a *physical story* with a *spiritual meaning*:
 - a. **“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.”** // Think about it: God the Father called Abraham and his descendants **to be His own**, **to be righteous through the coming Messiah**, and **to bear the fruit of repentance by honoring Him in their lives.**
 - b. ⁷ **“And [the vineyard owner] said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’”** // Imagine purchasing, planting, and caring for a fruit-bearing tree; then, after enough years went by, what would you think? *It should be bearing fruit!* What would you do if there was no fruit? Be even more patient, or cut it down!
 - c. ⁸ **“And [the vinedresser] answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure.’** ⁹ **Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”** // As the descendants of Abraham were richly blessed, *so we are richly blessed.* But as we learned in today’s epistle reading, **“with**

most of them God was not pleased” (1Co 10:5 ESV). Rather than bearing the fruits of repentance, *they were idol-worshiping, sexually immoral, complainers!* So, *from converted hearts and with much gratitude*, let us bear fruit:

- i. John told the religious leaders who **said** they were repentant, **but had no fruit:** “Bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (Mt 3:8 ESV).
- ii. Paul rightly taught “that [the Gentiles] should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance” (Acts 26:20 ESV).
- iii. Converted people have the Holy Spirit; the “fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22-23 NAS).
So let us bear God-honoring fruit!

Conclusion: Dr. Kretzmann made these comments on on the parable of the fig tree: *“There is a lesson here for all times, for God deals with all men in a similar way. His justice is tempered with patience; He waits long before He condemns.... But finally the most loving patience must come to an end and justice be carried out”* (NT 1:340).

Let us pray: Dear Jesus, *for all who know You*, move us to gladly bear fruit, and, *for all who do not know You*, be merciful and convert them! In Your name we pray. Amen!