

Luke 13:1-9 | CG Notes

A. Explore

Read Luke 13:1-9

- What poor explanations have you heard offered for suffering and tragedy in the world? By Christians? By secular people?
- According to this passage, what is one of God's purposes in calamity and disaster?
- What are some of the other purposes God intends for suffering and tragedy?
 - 2 Corinthians 1:8-11?
 - Hebrews 2:10-11; Psalm 119:65-72?
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18?
- Does Jesus always respond with tough words in response to suffering and death? How do you explain the difference in how he responds to individuals like the widow in Luke 7 vv. 11-17) and how he responds to the crowd?
- How is the fig tree (vv. 6-9) a fitting analogy for Israel?
- In Jesus' parable, the fig tree showed some signs of life (at least from a distance) but lacked fruit. What kind of fruit is consistent with true repentance? (see Luke 3:10-14, 8:15, 10:13-16, Gal. 5:19-26)

B. Apply

Pick one or more of these to consider as you close:

- How do you tend to respond to reports of calamity, suffering, and death? How should this passage change your response?

- Are you ever tempted to judge someone in their suffering and tragedy? Do you ever think, “Well, maybe if they [fill in the blank], this wouldn’t have happened”?

- How has God show himself exceedingly patient and kind in leading you to repentance?

- What fruit/evidence of repentance do you see in your life?

- C.S. Lewis wrote, “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal... it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendors.” (*The Weight of Glory*)
 - Do you think of neighbors, coworkers, classmates, waiters/waitresses, cashiers, etc... as people who must repent or perish?

 - How would living in light of this truth change the way you interact with others?

- How might you respond in prayer to this Scripture? How could your CG pray about these things?