

Read Luke 13:1-9

1. People decided to tell Jesus about a murderous act committed by Pilate in the past (v1)
 - i. Why do you think people chose to raise this matter with Jesus?
 - ii. Do you think Christians should be proactively vocal concerning what the government is doing or do you think Christianity and politics shouldn't mix?
2. Jesus perceived that people thought that those killed by Pilate must have been worse sinners than others and that is why they suffered in this way (v2).
 - i. Why might they think this?
 - ii. Do you ever think that some people die because it is God's punishment for the bad things that they have done?
 - iii. Why is it that sometimes good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people?
3. Jesus said that the people who had died were not worse sinners and called His listeners to search their own hearts and repent...lest they too will perish (v3)
 - i. What do you understand by the word "repent"? What does it mean?
 - ii. What does it not mean?
 - iii. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that those who don't repent will "perish"?
 - iv. Do Christians need to just repent once before accepting Jesus or should it be an ongoing practice?
4. In verses 4-5 Jesus referred to another tragic incident where 18 people had died from a collapsed tower and then He asked exactly the same question and gave the same call to repent
 - i. Why do you think He repeated this exact same message?
 - ii. Has God ever repeated something more than once to you?
5. Jesus told a parable of a fruitless fig tree being given one more year to change its way (v 6-9).
 - i. Bearing in mind what Jesus had just said in verses 1-5 why do you think He then told them this story?
 - ii. How can we tell if our lives are bearing the kind of "fruit" that the Lord is looking for?

Read Luke 13:10-17

6. Despite physically suffering for 18 years the woman still came to the synagogue (v10-11).
 - i. Why might people today avoid 'going to church' when things aren't going right for them?
 - ii. What does the woman's perseverance teach us about maintaining faith under pressure?
7. Although the woman may have been at the back of the room, bent over, and therefore out of sight, Jesus saw her (v12). How can we ensure that we "see" those who have needs within our church and community?
8. The woman's healing brought her delight but angered the synagogue ruler because she had been healed on the sabbath (v14). The fourth commandment said you shouldn't work on the Sabbath (Ex.20:9-11) and the ruler (along with many Pharisees) considered healing to be work.
 - i. What are some modern "religious rules" or attitudes that might keep people from experiencing freedom and joy in Jesus?
 - ii. What's the difference between "keeping rules" for God and "walking in obedient relationship" with Him?
9. Jesus highlighted the hypocrisy of valuing the needs of a "donkey" over the needs of a "daughter of Abraham" (v15-16). How might the Church unknowingly do something similar?
10. Many were "*delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing*" (v17) .What do you currently see the Lord doing that brings you delight?

For personal consideration

In what ways am I allowing pain, shame, fear or disappointment to "bend me over" spiritually?
What things do I need to get "straightened out" in my life?