

March 30, 2014
"The Right Response is Repentance"
Luke 13:1-9

When faced with the kinds of calamities described in the early verses of LUKE 13, people typically respond:

- (1) As Jesus' audience seemed to - blaming the victims, accusing them of exceptional sin; or by
- (2) Blaming God, calling Him cruel, or even questioning His existence -

Rarely do people respond as Jesus wanted His hearers and wants us to: **With Repentance**

What is REPENTANCE and why is it the appropriate to any bad thing that might happen in this world?

I. Repentance involves **SIGHT**, Recognition of sin, in particular of our own sin(s) –

1. People who ask "why?" usually are not recognizing sin at all and sometimes it is harder to see –

For instance children –

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. (Matthew 2:16 NKJ)

- A. We know Herod was wrong to do this!
- B. Was God wrong to allow it?

We know He did, it was prophesied by Jeremiah –

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." (Matthew 2:17-18 NKJ)

- C. You might see some small sins in small children but not likely great outward sin and you could ask today about unborn children over 50 million have been killed since abortion became legal in the USA ... you might question, are not they innocent?

¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (Romans 9:10-13 NKJ)

Now, unborn children have not committed any outward evil – Yet, they are guilty before God:

A. Because of Adam's sin –

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)

B. Because they had inherited a sin nature –

³ The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. (Psalms 58:3 NKJ)

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)

2. The people who came to Jesus may or may not have seen sin in Pilate's victims –

^{NKJ} Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. (Luke 13:1 NKJ)

They might have been asking Jesus WHY?

But Jesus redirects their focus, their recognition, their sight to their own sins –

² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. (Luke 13:2-3 NKJ)

3. This is where true repentance always starts with **recognition** of our own sins –

"It's me, it's me, it's me O Lord, standing in the need of prayer ... not my brother, not my sister but it's me O Lord standing in the NEED of PRAYER!

II. Repentance involves REMORSE for sin, sorrow for sin

- Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
(Matthew 5:4 NKJ)

Sorrow, crying, mourning is what should be normal when we see sin for what it really is and does –

1. *Not having such sorrow is due to a hardened heart –*

¹⁹ "Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ "that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20 NKJ)

2. *It is due to stupor fogging the mind –*

⁷ What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. ⁸ Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day." (Romans 11:7-8 NKJ)

When a light comes in, when things are made clear, when sin is seen for what it really is; there has to be a holy disgust, a sorrow, a remorse that we once indulged in it! This should be especially true for believers!

III. Repentance involves a RENOUNCING and confession of sin –

1. *Repentance is verbalized in confession –*

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NKJ)

2. *Confession includes the acknowledgement that God is right to judge and condemn –*

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.

⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight-- That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge. (Psalm 51:3-4 NKJ)

IV. Repentance should involve a hatred for, a turning from and even a RUNNING from sin –

"Repentance is to leave, the sins you loved before and show that you in earnest grieve by doing so no more!" CH Spurgeon

⁷ Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:7-9 NKJ)

Yet, as much as we are told to repent, to run from sin like Lot was told to run from Sodom, we are not typically quick to repentance –

³ "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." ⁶ He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ "Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' ⁸ "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.' ⁹ "And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down." (Luke 13:3-9 NKJ)

It is God's goodness toward us, His patience He has not cut us down already –

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:4 NKJ)

¹⁶ And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. (Gen 19:16 NKJ)
Lot lingered but by grace God's angels took his hands and sped him up!

Lot's wife looked back, she was turned into a pillar of salt –

²⁶ But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. (Gen 19:26 NKJ)

Revelation 2:5; 2:16; 2:21-22; 3:3; 3:19; 9:20-21; 16:9-11

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