

Sunday Message Meditation

November 9, 2014

Text: Luke 13:1-9

Message Consideration:

1. Luke 13:1-5.

Persecution happens. Accidents happen. People die and perish. Don't die and perish. Repent!

- a. To repent means to change your mind, your purpose and direction.
- b. To repent in relationship with God means: "I've been wrong all along and God's been right all along. I've been going my own way which leads to destruction, and God's way is right and best and leads to life. I'm changing direction, turning to God and going God's way."
- c. Repentance isn't confessing you're going the wrong way, feeling bad about going your own way, bemoaning your mistakes, wallowing in your failures, and lamenting your indiscretions. Repentance is turning around and going a different direction. It is turning from yourself, turning to God, and going God's way. Jesus is God's way!

2. Luke 13:6-9.

The owner of the fig tree expects produce; the gardener exhibits patience; the tree expires or produces (it bears fruit or it perishes). Don't perish. Produce fruit!

John 15:1-9.

We don't produce fruit on our own. We produce fruit by abiding in Jesus.

- a. Jesus (the Vine) produces life and fruit.
- b. The Father (the Gardener) tends to the branches, making them even more fruitful.
- c. The branch (the disciple) abides in Jesus and remains in His love.
 - i. Don't fret over fruit production. Fix your life on abiding in Jesus. He produces.
 - ii. Jesus is the beginning, the end, and the way in-between. Jesus is the gospel! Turn to Him. Abide in Him. Experience life.

Message Application:

- 1. Repentance is essential to not perishing. How does the Christian life begin and continue with the practice of repentance?
- 2. Producing fruit is essential to not perishing. Is Jesus able to direct the abiding branch into fruit bearing life? Are you confident that by abiding in Jesus He will produce fruit?
- 3. Persecution and accidental happenings are challenging realities. Instead of condemning Pilate and defending God, Jesus points to the reality of death and urges repentance. How should Jesus' example in this passage influence our practice in ministry to others? Do we spend more time defending God than urging repentance? Are we more focused on evil governors than the coming judgment?