

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree Luke 13:1 – 9

It appears that there is general agreement among commentators, including Dr. Just in his Concordia Commentary, that the Parable of the Barren Fig is about repentance as a continued explanation of the discussion in **Luke 13:1 – 5**. With this in mind let's first read this section of Scripture.

In verse one, there were “some present” with Jesus who told Him about what happened to the Galileans. This action by Pontius Pilate would be particularly abhorrent to the Jews. Dr. Just comments as follows:

The mixing of the blood of the Galileans with their sacrifices was a heinous crime. The best explanation for such a bizarre sequence is the Passover context, for it provides the only occasion for laypeople to sacrifice in the temple precincts. Pilate violated all holiness codes sending troops into the temple...

Considering the “some present” probably included Pharisees or Scribes, what may have been the trap they were setting for Jesus in bringing this up.

Why did Jesus ask the question about whether they thought the Galileans were worse sinners?

How is the question about the Tower of Siloam falling on and killing people different from the account of the Galileans?

How does the book, “When bad things happen to good people”, relate to this topic?

What does that book title imply about our relationship to God?

How does our everyday circumstances relate to how we think about our relationship to God:

in hard times? _____

in good times? _____

What is the significance of Jesus saying “No, I tell you...” in verses 3 and 5?

What does society think of or picture with the word, “repent”?

What does Jesus mean when He says, “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish”?

Let’s now read the parable itself, **Luke 13:6 – 9**.

Considering the previously mentioned consensus that this parable applies to the first five verses of the chapter and repentance, what is this parable saying about repentance?

How does this relate to Luther’s first thesis of the 95 Theses which states:

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,” he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.

How do we repent and both good times and bad times?

What is the implication of verse 8?

What is the implication of verse 9 of the parable?
