

THE PARABLE OF THE BARREN FIG TREE

Luke 13:6-9

CONTEXT OF THE PARABLE

A group of people come to Jesus and tells him about how Pilate's soldiers murdered some Galileans while they were offering sacrifices at the Temple, so that their blood and the blood of the sacrifices were mixed. The people don't say it, but Jesus hears it in their voices – these slain Galileans must have done something horrible for God to allow something so horrible to happen to them. In other words extraordinary tragedy must signify extraordinary guilt.

WHAT IS CLEAR? Be careful!

- Barren Fig Tree = Certainly refers to unbelievers, and seems to refer to the nation of Israel (An unbelieving people). Vineyards and Fig trees often refer to Israel under the Old Covenant.
Isaiah 5:1-7, Matt 3:1-10 Psalm 80:8-10, Jeremiah 2:21, 12:10-11, Ezekiel 19:10-14, Hosea 10:1-2, John 15:1-8
- The owner = God
- Fruit = repentance, a New Heart

THE POINT OF THE PARABLE

Bear fruit! Repent and Believe!

- Every believer is an incurable God-lover and will give evidence of a changed life.
Romans 8:5-9, 12-14, John 3:16-21, Hebrews 10:14, Titus 2:11-12
- Barren trees will certainly be cut down at last, and cast into the fire.
Matt 3:1-10, Heb 9:27
- The sin of the Galileans was not extraordinarily horrible. It was ordinarily horrible, and anyone who does not repent will too experience a horrible end. The amazing thing is that God gives us one more day to repent!