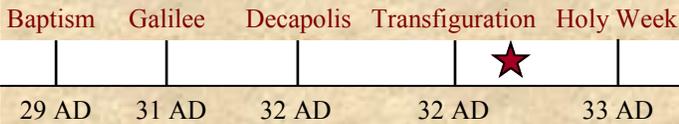
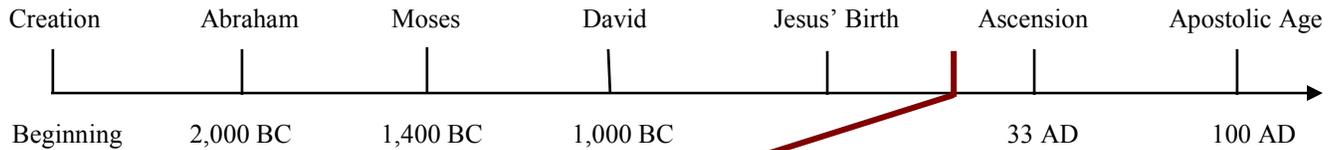


# Across the Generations

## *Learning from God's Word and from Each Other*

Sunday, March 11, 2007  
"Just Desserts!"

### Context and Time Frame



### Overview: [Luke 13:1-9](#)

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them - do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Then he told them this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'"

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

### Summary

This lesson offers a beneficial discourse on tragedy, repentance, and the way God works in a person's life.

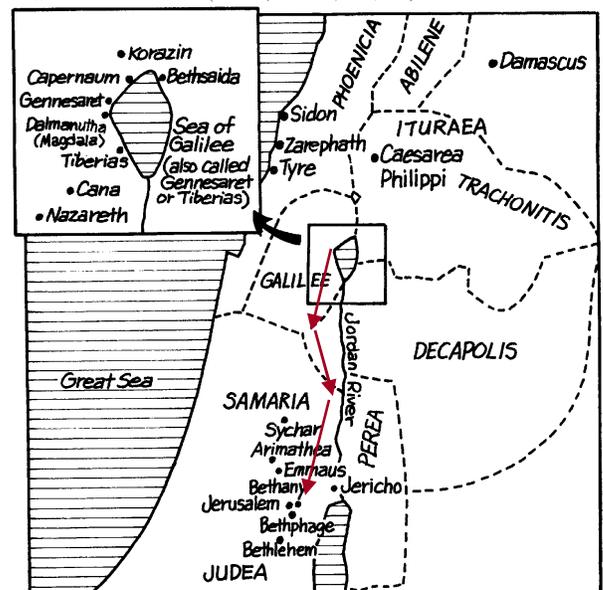
### Review

Jesus is teaching the crowds who were following him as he makes his way from Galilee to Jerusalem. The time is important for both the disciples and those who followed. Without a proper understanding of repentance, or God's undeserved love, there is only the endless cycle of work righteousness.

What was the prevailing thought concerning tragedies at this time?

What was the point of comparison with the 2 terms --  
worse sinners?  
more guilty?

What shift in emphasis did Jesus provide?



How is the term “just desserts” to be understood?

Does God desire to give us our “just desserts?”

What has he done for us instead?

Why is repentance such a huge part of God’s mercy?

***Which is more correct?***

God forgives me because I repent of my sins.

The certainty of God’s forgiveness leads me to repent of my sins.

What are some of the points of the parable --

Who is the owner, and what does he desire?

Who is the caretaker, and what does he do?

Why is the concept of “fruit” so important?

What does this parable teach about my life?

My View

What is the danger of comparisons to other people in respect to repentance?

What danger is there in attaching tragedies to “sin?”

Why is it important to hold on to Jesus words: “Unless you repent, you too will all perish?”

Closing View

Of what does our Savior want us to be aware?

To what does repentance lead?

What should I do if I am not bothered enough by my sins to repent of them?

**Devotional Thoughts - Luke 13:1-9**  
*Monday, March 12th through Saturday, March 17th*

**Monday**

*Read Luther on Confession*

*What is Confession?*

Confession has two parts. The one is that we confess our sin; the other that we receive absolution or forgiveness from the pastor as from God himself, not doubting but firmly believing that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven.

*What Sins should we Confess?*

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Why is it important to remember "both steps" of confession?

What doubts could rise in our minds regarding the confession of our sins?

Why should we consider ourselves guilty before God?

*Prayer Thoughts:*

O gracious Lord, I know I have sinned against you. Lead me to confess my sins and to look to Jesus for the forgiveness he offers. Amen!

**Tuesday**

*Read: Christian Worship 302 st. 1 & 4*

Lord, to you I make confession; I have sinned and gone astray;

I have multiplied transgression, chosen for myself my way.

Led by you to see my errors, Lord, I tremble at your terrors.

Lord, on you I cast my burden - sink it in the depths below!

Let me know your gracious pardon; wash me, make me white as snow.

Let your Spirit leave me never; make me only yours forever.

Why does the Lord have to constantly call me from my own way?

What does the Lord do with the burden I cast on him?

Why is it only through repentance and forgiveness that I can be free from guilt?

*Prayer Thoughts*

O gracious Savior, because of your suffering and death on the cross I can live with the peace that comes from the forgiveness you give me. Lead me daily to your cross, there I will be purified from all my guilt and sin. Amen!

**Wednesday**

*Read: Psalm 51:3-5*

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."

What must I always acknowledge before the Lord?

*Prayer Thoughts*

O gracious heavenly Father, it is easy to lose sight of my sins. Open my eyes to see my guilt, then lead me to the cross of your Son. There I will find peace and cleansing. Amen!

### **Thursday**

*Read the Confession of Sins (Christian Worship, Private Confession)*

“Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, my words and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.”

Why do I come as a “troubled and repentant” sinner?

Why is it a sin not to love God with my whole heart?

Is there a problem when I am not troubled or distressed by my sins?

What if I am sorry for my sin, understand my guilt, but fail to look to Jesus for forgiveness?

### *Prayer Thoughts*

Dearest Jesus, my precious Savior, I come at your invitation. Lead me to confess my guilt and acknowledge my sin. Then, lead me to your cross. There I will find your peace and forgiveness. Amen!

### **Friday**

*Read Christian Worship 385 st. 1 & 3*

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,

Died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.

As the branch is to the vine, I am his and he is mine!

Only Jesus can impart comfort to a wounded heart;

Peace that flows from sin forgiven, joy that lifts the soul to heaven.

Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.

How should I consider myself to other “sinners?”

Why is it important to be grafted to Jesus, the true Vine?

What lifts my aching soul heavenward?

### *Prayer Thoughts*

O Lord, my God and Savior, I know I am a sinner, and your holy Law strips away any goodness I might claim for myself. In humility, I come before you. In sorrow over my sin, I fall before your cross. In peace, I know I will depart, because you have forgiven me. Amen!

### **Saturday**

*Read Luke 15:11-32*

What do we share with the “lost son?”

What can we be confident to receive from our heavenly Father?

It is important to understand that “coming to our senses” means recognizing our guilt before the Lord, confessing it in all humility, and rejoicing in the reconciliation he offers.