

01 – Repent or Perish **Luke 13: 1 – 5**

Materials: a map of Israel showing Galilee and Jerusalem

Step 1: Link (back to Luke 12)

We are reading the story of Jesus in the book of Luke. We have read 12 chapters! We are ready to start reading chapter 13. Chapter 13 continues chapter 12. Some of the first words of chapter 13 are “at that time.” “At that time” means the time of chapter 12, when Jesus was teaching many people.

Step 2: Background (locating Galilee and Jerusalem)

We will read the names of two places in our story today. Both of the places are in Israel. One of the places is “Galilee.” Can you find Galilee on this map - ? (. . .) Galilee is an area in the north of Israel.

The other name is “Jerusalem.” Can you find Jerusalem on this map - ? (...) Jerusalem is a city in the southern part of Israel. It was an important city, because the temple of God was in Jerusalem.

Step 3: Key Questions

- **What question does Jesus repeat?** (v.2, 4 “*Do you think this happened because they were more sinful?*”)
- **Where was the tower of Siloam?** (v.4 in Jerusalem)

Step 4: Read Luke 13: 1 - 5

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

Who killed the people in Galilee - ? (. . . Pilate) Do you recognize the name “Pilate” - ? (. . . he is the man who killed Jesus on the cross)

What were the people in Galilee doing when Pilate killed them - ? (. . . sacrificing, worshipping¹) At the time of Jesus, worship included killing animals. Often a cow or a sheep was killed. The blood of the cow or the sheep covered the people’s sins. Jesus was called the “Lamb of God” because his blood on the cross also covers sin.

¹ Depending on the wording in your classroom Bible

This question is asking for your opinion: why do you think the people told Jesus about this killing - ? (... *thought time; see what they come up with*)

In my opinion, the people couldn't understand why God would let this happen. The people who were killed were worshipping God! Why didn't God protect them?

How did Jesus answer them - ? (... *they were not worse sinners; unless you repent you will also die like them*) This doesn't seem like an answer. But it shows two important things.

One – Jesus knew their hearts. They were thinking that the people who were killed were the worst sinners. They were very bad sinners, and that is why God didn't protect them. But what did Jesus say - ? (... *“No!” They were not worse sinners!*) It happened for God's own mysterious reason. So that's the first important thing: Jesus knows our hearts.

Two – no one knows when their life will be over. In chapter 12, Jesus was teaching and warning the people about God's judgment. When does God's judgment come - ? (... *after we die.*) In today's story, the worshippers did not think that they would die. They thought they would go home after worshipping. But Pilate killed them. Were they ready for God's judgment? (*pause*) That's the second important thing: we don't know when we will die. We don't know when God's judgment will come to us.

Are we ready for God's judgment?

Do you have any questions or comments?

Notes from Biblegateway.com commentary:

“The presence of evil in our world is always disturbing. Tragedy surrounds us on every side. Whose fault is it? *In the ancient world, unlike the modern, people were slow to attribute evil to the deity's carelessness or noninvolvement.* Certainly they believed in evil spiritual forces, but *they assumed that tragedy generally reflects God's judgment for sin committed.* If tragedy comes, *responsibility lies with the person who experiences the tragedy.*” [italics mine]