

Recap of 11/26/17 (Luke 13:1-9):

1. the topic of Luke 13:1-9 is “Why do calamities, tragedy, suffering, and death come to people?” How are we to understand it and how should we respond to it? Jesus’ answer is that suffering and death come to all people and because of that all must have an eternal perspective which focuses on a right relationship with God, a ready relationship with God, and a fruitful relationship with God:

-are we reconciled to God through His Son Jesus?

-are we ready for eternity?

-are we living for God daily?

-are we fruitful in our relationship with God?

2. The religious leaders erroneously taught that tragedy comes because of unusual sin in a person’s life. Jesus answers that in this passage by showing that all are guilty and in need of repentance (a change of mind about who Jesus is and what He requires of us and a change of direction). The truth is that all are guilty and that none are innocent. (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12). All should be prepared for death, all should be reconciled to God.

3. Jesus has the power to save people from sin and make their lives fruitful and useful to Him.

4. In tragedy we learn: to value the things which are truly valuable (“Life does not consist in the abundance of things”) our relationships with our loved ones; the brevity of life (James 4); the priority of the gospel, and the need to pray for those around us and to preach the gospel.

5. Suffering has the following effects in a life:

-it highlights our weakness, God’s strength, and our need of grace 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

-it produces character and righteousness James 1:2-4

-It proves the reality of our faith 1 Peter 1:6,7

-it identifies us with Jesus 1 Peter 2:21

-it helps us to identify with others 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

-it fixes our eyes on what is real, our eyes on eternity 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

-it draws unbelievers to Christ and shows them their need of Him