

LUKE 13:1-21

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 10:1-37 - SENDING THE 70 / NOT GOOD ENOUGH - GOOD SAMARITAN...**
- **LUKE 11:1-54 - PRAYER / CHALLENGING JESUS / WOE UNTO THE PHARISEES AND LAWYERS...**
- **LUKE 12:1-59 - BEWARE OF RELIGION...**
 - A man in the crowd demanded Jesus tell his brother to share their families inheritance...
 - Jesus told the crowds - don't seek after money/things - be content with what you have...
 - Life is not about how much stuff/money you can collect - it does not last...
 - The parable of the rich man - thought he had it all - but tonight his life was required!
 - Jesus turned to His disciples - ‘Do not worry...’
 - They did not have to worry about what to eat / what they would wear...
 - God knew they had need of these things - and promises to provide for them...
 - Instead they were to seek first the Kingdom of God - then all these things would be given...
 - Because wherever they put their treasures - time/talents - there heart would be also!
 - Instead of worrying - Look up...
 - 1st - Be ready - in an hour when you least expect it - Jesus is coming back!
 - 2nd - Be a faithful servant - so you will receive a reward when Jesus returns...
 - 3rd - A message to purify us / a message that will cause division...
 - 4th - Today is the day - recognize the signs and be ready for Jesus!

WHAT WE NEED... VS. (4 THINGS)

- **1ST - WE ARE ALL NEED JESUS... VS. 1-5**
 - Some who were convicted by Jesus warning - to be ready / get right with God...
 - Seeking to prove they were ‘good people’- told Jesus about those Pilate had put to death...
 - How Pilate had killed them as they were offering sacrifices (*perhaps Passover*)...
 - **This could be a reference to a man called Judas from Galilee - Acts 5:37**
 - **He had taught that Jews did not have to pay taxes to Rome...**
 - **He gathered a large following - until Rome came and killed him and all his followers...**
 - The Passover was always a volatile time of year - Jews from all over coming ‘home’...
 - Perhaps Judas used it as an opportunity to try and rally men to his cause...
 - And Pilate came and ‘spilled their blood’ as they offered their Passover lambs...
 - The crowd assumed these men died because they were evil (*rebels*)...
 - But since they were still alive - then they were better - they were good people...
 - They thought their story proved they were good / godly men...
 - **Most people assume they are good because they compare themselves to others...**
 - **They think because they are not a bank robber / or murderer - they are a good person**
 - **But that is their standard of good - not God's - God tells us there is none good...**
 - **Romans 3:10 - “There is none righteous, no, not one...”**

- No one will ever be able to get into heaven by their own merit - their good works!
- Jesus picked up on their assumption - and corrected them...
 - The men whom Pilate killed were no worse than any other man...
 - In fact all men are 'evil' and share the same fate if they don't repent...
 - There are no levels of sinners with God - you are either perfect or a sinner...
 - The man who loves his wife and kids - and does his best to live a good life...
 - Is no more righteous before God - than the convicted criminal in prison...
 - We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard of perfection - **Romans 3:23**
 - Because we are all sinners - we all have 'earned' the reward of hell - **Romans 6:23**
 - But if we repent - and receive the free gift of salvation Jesus offers through the cross...
 - The cross makes even the worst of sinners into the holiest of saints!

o The collapse of the tower of Siloam...

- Jesus gave a 2nd example to reinforce His point...
 - A tower by the pool of Siloam had collapsed killing 18 people...
 - Unlike the rebellion of Judas - this was a complete accident...
 - The people did nothing wrong - they were just in the wrong place at the wrong time...
- The people knew the event - but again assumed those who died were 'more evil'...
 - In order for something bad to happen to them - they must be guilty of something...
 - We often assume bad things only happen to bad people - you get what you deserve...
 - o If you get sick / have a bad harvest - people assume it is God punishing you...
 - o But the truth is God lets bad things happen to innocent people...
 - o Job was a righteous man - but God allowed him to lose everything!
 - o The reason was because Job only knew about God before his trials - but after...
 - o Job 42:5 - "I had heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes."
 - o It is in the hard times of life we cry out to and draw close to God!
 - At the same time we assume good things happen to good people...
 - o If someone gives us 100 pesos - God is blessing because we did something right...
 - o God will often allow good things to happen to evil people...
 - o Romans 2:4 - "Knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance..."
 - o God does not want anyone to perish - in His love he even blesses sinners...
 - o Trials or blessings - it all comes down to sinners needing Jesus!

● 2ND - WE NEED TO BEAR GOOD FRUIT... VS. 6-9

- o Jesus gave the people a parable to explain - 'the fig tree with no fruit'...
 - A man planted a fig tree in a vineyard - he came to collect the fruit and found none...
 - He said to the keeper of the vineyard - 3 years I have waited for fruit - cut the tree down!
 - But the keeper asked for one more year - he would try to 'cast manure' under the tree...
- o Learning from your mistakes...
 - God planted Israel (*fig tree*) in the world (*vineyard*) so they could bear fruit for God...
 - Jesus (*keeper*) had been ministering for three years - and still there was no fruit...
 - So Israel was in danger of being 'cut down'...
 - It is easy to fool ourselves - thinking we are ok with God...
 - We think we are ok - we believe in God - we are planted in 'the vineyard'...
 - But where is our heart - are we excited about Jesus / or going through the motions...

- * **II Corinthians 13:5** - “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you.”
- We can call ourselves Christians - but actions speak louder than words...
- If we are not bearing good fruit for God - we have to question our walk with God...
- Jesus was going to use manure - to fertilize and bring fruit from a lifeless tree...
 - If we are not bearing fruit - chances are we need a little fertilizer - we need manure...
 - Our manure is our past - our sinful lives - recognizing we are desperate sinners!
 - Until we admit that - we are not going to see our great need for Jesus...
 - If you feel like Jesus is just a small part of your life – take it or leave it...
 - If you wonder why you are not more sold out for the Lord...
 - Likely it is because you do not think you desperately need Jesus...
 - You think you are a pretty good person – even without Him
 - But in truth were all hopelessly lost in sin – all of us desperately needed Christ...
 - The more realize/embrace that – the more we will love/follow Jesus
 - * **Philippians 3:8** - “Everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as manure, so that I may have Christ...”
 - The result of clinging to Jesus is we start to bear good fruit - **John 15:4-5**

● 3RD - WE NEED FAITH IN JESUS... VS. 10-17

- Not empty faith in superstitions...
 - Jesus went to teach in a Synagogue...
 - A woman had a curvature of the spine - and could not stand up straight...
 - She had been in bondage to a ‘spirit of sickness’ - for 18 years...
 - She had looked everywhere - she had tried faith healers - all the local remedies...
 - But the more she tried - the more she was bent over - the worse she became!
 - We all know people who are (*and perhaps we were*) caught up in superstitions...
 - People who live in constant fear of evil spirits / those who trust in idols...
 - When we are in bondage to superstition / spirits - our eyes are not on Jesus...
 - Rather than looking to the Lord - we have placed our faith in something else!
 - Jesus healed the woman - and she stood up and glorified God!
 - When we look to Jesus we no longer live in fear of spirits / worry about superstitions
 - Jesus sets us free - **John 8:36** - He sets us free to life and worship Him...
 - We can build a house anytime/anywhere - knowing God is on our side!
- Not empty faith in religion...
 - The ruler of the Synagogue was furious...
 - He told the people - there are 6 days in the week to work - come be healed then...
 - According to the Jew’s interpretation of the Law - you couldn’t heal on the Sabbath
 - The most you could do was to save a life if someone was dying...
 - Any more than that and it would constitute work - breaking the Sabbath...
 - But this woman had been coming to ‘church’ for 18 years and it had not helped!
 - Many people think cause they attend a church every week - they are OK with God...
 - Going to church does not make you a child of God - it will not save you...
 - Many people believe their religion makes them strong in the Lord...

- When in reality their religion makes them weak - taking their eyes off of Jesus...
- They trust in their religion - rather than looking to and depending on the Lord!
- Hypocrites - Jesus challenged their two faced religion...
 - If any of them had an animal that was thirsty on the Sabbath...
 - They would not let them suffer - they would lead them to water...
 - How much more should this 'daughter of Abraham' - one of their countrymen...
 - Deserve to be freed from the bondage of satan after 18 years...
 - Religion did not seek to set the woman free - it had help keep her bound up!
 - Don't put your faith in empty superstition/religion - instead put your faith in Jesus...
 - Superstition and religion steal the joy of life away from us - keep us bound...
 - Jesus came to give us life - * **John 10:10** - "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly..."

● **4TH - WE NEED TO SHINE FOR JESUS... vs. 18-21**

- o Not everyone in church is saved - Parable of the Mustard Seed... vs. 18-19
 - The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds – yet becomes a large tree...
 - Jesus here likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed...
 - The Church (*Kingdom of Heaven*) starts very small...
 - But it would grow unnaturally large – filled by those who are not really believers...
 - So that satan (*the birds of the air*) will even be able to hide in its branches...
 - *We know birds represent satan from the parable of the 'Seed and the Sower'...*
 - History shows the church flourished under persecution in the first 3 centuries...
 - It was when the church became the accepted religion that things went wrong...
 - Though the numbers grew – those who truly believed in Jesus declined...
 - Satan found that the best way to beat the church – was to join it!
 - Just because someone goes to church - that does not make them a Christian...
 - Any more than hanging out in a poultry - makes you a chicken...
 - We need to look at the fruit of a person - do they have true faith in Jesus
- o Sin is contagious - leaven in 3 measures of flour... vs. 20-21
 - A woman 'hid' leaven in 3 measures of flour - and it spreads...
 - It is interesting how much flour is in the parable – about 9 gallons...
 - Enough to make 72 large loaves of bread – this is a LOT of flour!
 - The woman represents satan who places leaven in the church...
 - The leaven represents sin that has come into the church...
 - The Bible consistently uses leaven as a picture of sin - **Galatians 5:7-10**
 - It continues to spread until it has filled the whole church...
 - The church is unnaturally large (*72 loaves worth*)...
 - Because it is compromised by unbelievers and satan coming in – brining in sin...
 - Sin when it is not dealt with - spreads...
 - Sin is not a matter to be taken lightly in the church...
 - It can also encourage others to follow the example of sin...
 - When sin is not dealt with – it spreads – and destroys lives...
- o Therefore we need...
 - 1st - To realize we are all sinners - and in desperate need of Jesus...

- 2nd - Not just for salvation - but every day - clinging to Jesus so we bear good fruit...
- 3rd - Not trusting in superstitions or religion - but a relationship with our living Lord...
- 4th - Then we will be able to shine for Jesus in a world compromised by sin!