



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

A Life of Fruitful Repentance March 24, 2019

(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.

² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?”

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ 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? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told 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. ⁷ 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?’”

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

1. **Icebreaker:** Don’t spend the rest of your study talking about college basketball, but what was the best game of March Madness you’ve watched so far? If you don’t watch March Madness, why don’t you?

2. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.** What advantages did Israel have that should have made them prime for spiritual fruits of repentance? What advantages do we have as 21st century Christians that should make us prime for fruits of repentance? Talk about the challenges that both Israel and we face for producing spiritual fruit.
3. Many Jews believed that people experience personal disaster as a judgment for their personal sin. Reading vs. 1-5, how does Jesus combat that false notion? List some Bible accounts that also show this “karma-esque” thinking is false.
4. **Discuss:** How does “understanding the times” of the world that we live in help us to live a life of fruitful repentance? List some recent tragedies in the world, and how they remind us of our need for repentance.
5. Just like this fruitless tree was detrimental to the other trees in the vineyard, how are fruitless Christians also detrimental to the people around them?
6. **Discuss:** In what ways does this parable allow us to see both God’s mercy and God’s justice at work. Explain your answer.
7. **Agree/Disagree:** God’s requirement of fruits of repentance equates to works righteousness.
8. **Discuss:** In the sermon, Pastor Schreiner said, “Fruits of repentance do not equal perfection. Fruits of repentance look like taking action to struggle against sin.” Explain what that means. Then, subscribe some fruits of repentance to different sins.