



# Ripped from the Headlines

**Luke 13:1-9**

# Ripped from the Headlines

- Sutherland Springs, TX—Church shooting
- Mandalay Bay Hotel
- Night Club fire
- California wildfires
- National tragedies
- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- Violence

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## Luke 13:1-4

*“There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, ‘Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than ...’”*

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## Luke 13:4-5

*“all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”*

(ESV)

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A photograph of a stone path leading through a forest. The path is made of irregular, grey stones and is flanked by green foliage and trees. The path leads towards a bright, hazy light in the distance. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# Two Tragic Events

**A Galilean Atrocity and  
a Judean Accident**

# Two Tragedies

- **A Galilean Atrocity**—a temple massacre—the slaughter of Galilean Jews by Pilate.

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## Luke 13:2

*“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?”* (ESV)

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# Two Tragedies

- A Galilean Atrocity
- **A Judean Accident**—The collapse of a tower.

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A stone path made of irregular grey stones leads from the bottom left towards the center of the image. The path is flanked by lush green vegetation, including ferns and small trees. The background is a soft, misty grey, suggesting a forest or a mountain landscape. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# Conventional Wisdom

**Underlying thought: God was giving those people what they deserve!**

## Job 8 & 22

- *“Your children have sinned against God and he has delivered them into the hand of their transgression”* (8:4, ESV)
- *“Such are the paths of all who forget God ...”* (8:13, ESV)
- *“Is it for your fear of him that he reproveth you and enters into judgment with you? Is not your evil abundant?”* (22:4-5, ESV)

## John 9:1-3

*“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.’” (ESV)*

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A stone path made of irregular grey stones leads up a hillside. The path is flanked by lush green vegetation, including grasses and small trees. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

# Jesus' Response

***“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” (3, 5)***

# The Importance of Contemplating Mortality

- Death & tragedy exist in a fallen world.
- Nothing exposes mortality more than when death comes suddenly and unexpectedly.
- What should be contemplated, is not simply the cutting short of these particular lives, but the fact that life often terminates quickly—even for those who don't expect it.
- In light of the brevity of life, do you need to repent?

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# A Story

## The Fruitless Fig Tree

## Luke 13:6-9

*“And he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”* (ESV)

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# Key Players & Themes

- **The Owner:**
  - This is God in his righteousness and justice. (*You are the tree, and you should bear fruit*)
- **The Vinedresser:**
  - This is also God, but represents his love and mercy. (*He will allow one more chance*)
- **The Offer:**
  - Grace is extended for one more season (*opportunity*)
- **The Expected Result:**
  - Fruit in keeping with repentance

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## 2 Peter 3:9

*“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”* (ESV)

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A stone path leads through a lush green forest. At the end of the path, a bright, ethereal light shines through the trees, creating a misty atmosphere. The path is made of irregular grey stones, and the surrounding vegetation is dense and vibrant green.

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**God is mercifully giving you one more opportunity. The pain of tragedy should cause you to reflect on life and encourage repentance.**