
Digging Deeper and Rising Higher

Does God use calamity and tragic events to judge the personal sins of people today? What is the difference between judgment of sin, and the discipline our Heavenly Father may use to train His children in righteousness?

What is our responsibility as Christ followers, to those who are like the "fruitless" tree of Luke 13:6,7?

Some Thoughts to Take With You

Faith in Christ does not remove you from the possibility of tragedy on earth; It does, however, insure that you will enjoy the eternal delights of heaven, some of which Your Loving Heavenly Father is pleased to give you now.

David W. Hegg

Wherever the missionary character of the doctrine of election is forgotten; wherever it is forgotten that we are chosen in order to be sent; wherever the minds of believers are concerned more to probe backwards from their election into the reasons for it in the secret counsel of God, than to press forward from their election to the purpose of it, ... that they should be Christ's ambassadors and witnesses to the ends of the earth, wherever men think that the purpose of election is their own salvation rather than the salvation of the world: then God,s people have betrayed their trust.

Lesslie Newbiggin

Accountable to Heaven

Luke 13:1-9

Introduction: *If God is holding us all accountable, then how do tragic events fit with this? Does God judge personal sin through disease, tornadoes, brush fires? Are tragic events and experiences really the veiled hand of God? Jesus faced these questions in His day, and His answers give both comfort and direction in ours.*

Part 1: God's Judgment and Earthly Calamity

Understanding Calamity

Luke 13:1-5

A tough question: *is tragedy God's judgment?*

A bold answer: *No!*

2 Illustrations

Admitting Depravity

Luke 13:3, 5

Who we all are by nature

What Jesus offers us all through faith

A Helpful Summary

Part 2: God's Judgment and Heavenly Accountability

The Story

Luke 13:6-9

A just owner

A fruitless tree

A loving gardener

The Significance of the Story

Where do you see yourself?

If you're a fruitless tree...

If you're a loving gardener...

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KIDS NOTES

Accountable to Heaven

Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

- The crowd wanted to know:
 - if tragic circumstances were the hand of God in judgment.
 - when the wicked will be judged and condemned.
 - where the white goes when the snow melts.
 - A and B above.
- The tower fell on 18 people and killed them because:
 - they were really bad people.
 - they had rejected God.
 - we live in a broken world where bad things happen.
 - all of the above.
- When told to cut down the "fruitless" tree, the gardener:
 - did it with pleasure.
 - pleaded to give it one more year.
 - doubled his efforts to bring the tree to fruitfulness.
 - B and C above.

For Family Discussion: Do you know some people who need Jesus? What can you do to help them know Him?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

	TOTAL
JESUS _____	_____
JUDGMENT _____	_____
CALAMITY _____	_____
TRAGEDY _____	_____
FRUITFUL _____	_____
GARDENER _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

JESUS JUDGMENT CALAMITY TRAGEDY FRUITFUL TOWER GARDENER FOOLISH WATER SOIL ROOTS FERTILIZER STORY PARABLE SILOAM PILATE SACRIFICES DEATH BLOOD DEPRAVITY SUMMARY OWNER TREE GOD LOVE GRACE FAITHFULNESS SONG

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G O Y X T R S Y X F T G R A C E D Q N
Z A Q R O O T O E G N L A F P N R W D
H Q R O A I W R I F E F R U I T F U L
J T T D M M T E O L M F Y D K R M N W
E S A A E I M O R E G A W B O A A R U
F Y L E L N L U T O D I W H D G O S L
I A T I D I E A S X U T A W O E L B X
C X Z I S C L R A C J H R A O D I H R
H E U H V I J E S U S F T T L Y S E L
R F A D P A Y R O T S U R E B K N O C
S E C I F I R C A S H L E R U W V G H
S T A G N O S P N S Z N E R O E S A U
M V F O J Y X X E N H E L B A R A P S
B E Z Z R R R D K D Y S S Z J V E S H
C N J H L M P S Z T P S I L P I P N D

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