



This is one of those “straight to the punch” passages of Jesus. When we are quick to point out the sin and fault in others, it is good to be reminded of how God sees all sin. Jesus exposes our pride and our selfishness in these verses.

“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 all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” 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.’” Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your disability.” And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, “There are six days in which work ought to be done. Come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” Then the Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?” As he said these things, all his adversaries were put to shame, and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.”

Luke 13:1-17 ESV

We all deserve to perish. There are no worse sinners than others. (v. 3)

Same answer in v. 5 - everyone deserves to perish

1. We all deserve to be punished for our sin.
Ask, Why are we so quick for others to be punished for their sin when we seek mercy for our own sins?
This does not mean that when someone suffers it is a punishment for their sin. Creation has become tainted by sin and some suffering comes because others have sinned, natural disasters, etc. Reference Luke 12:54-56 (you understand the physical more than you read spiritual truth - you are hypocrites)
This perish word is the same as in John 3:16 - not just physical but spiritual death.
2. Everyone is going to perish unless they repent regardless of the sin or “level of sin”. Physical and spiritual death are both very real. We only escape the punishment we deserve through Jesus Christ.

Interestingly enough, Jesus gives a descriptive word picture here in v. 6-9 - parable of the fig tree

This tree is not bearing fruit and deserves to be cut down. The vine dresser asks for more time for the tree to bear fruit. Two things to learn from this parable:

1. God is patient, giving us more time to repent than we deserve. Jesus is extending grace and mercy.
2. God will punish us the way we deserve if we don't repent. If not, we will be cut down.

Jesus then goes on to vividly show what He was meaning in real time. He finds Himself in the synagogue on the Sabbath. Read v. 10 – 17.

The Bent Over Woman

18 years and she is finally healed of her infirmity. The synagogue leader is angry because she was healed on the Sabbath.

Jesus rescues her from her malady and she doesn't even ask for it. Two things to learn from this -

1. God pursues us with grace we don't deserve to rescue us from the punishment we do deserve.
2. He is the God who rescues, redeems and restores. He doesn't give us what we deserve in order to give us what we don't deserve.

How then can we respond to Who we see Jesus to be?

1. Jesus doesn't talk about other people. He puts the focus on you/me. Jesus talks to you.
2. Jesus doesn't talk about theological issues (suffering, sin, etc.) Jesus talks about your/my heart. You just need to repent of the sin in your heart.
3. Does the sin of others make your heart hard or humble?
4. No one's sin is worse than mine/yours.

Don't miss the spiritual realities of the physical things you see happening around you.

There aren't categories of sin with Jesus. There is just one - sinners who need to repent.

There are however two categories of sinners: repentant sinners and unrepentant sinners

If you don't see your need for grace you won't be gracious to others. (Synagogue leader didn't need physical healing so he was focused on the rule rather than the woman being freed from her physical pain.) Be humbled by my own sin and needing God's grace.

Do you/I recognize how patient God is?

If you are still breathing, it's not too late for grace. It's not too late to repent.

Andy gave us further homework this week Let me encourage each of us to do that this week.

Read Psalm 107

There are 4 sections to this Psalm. The first and last sections relay that the circumstance is not their fault. The two middle sections deal with suffering that is a result of their own actions and their fault.

Regardless, when they cried out, God delivered them whether it was or wasn't their fault.

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray together.