

**“Unless You Repent, You Will All Likewise Perish”**

*Sermon Notes*

- **Our response to tragedy reveals a truckload about us - in adversity, Jesus has one ultimate goal for us: *repent and bear fruit***

1. It's not the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives that's our biggest problem - it's the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 1-5)

2. The only infallible \_\_\_\_\_ of true \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives is spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ over the acid test of \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 6-9)

Next Week: Luke 13:10-20 - “What is the Kingdom of God Like?”

**MEFC Community Group Study Questions**  
For the Week of May 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

**Getting Started**

1. Theologian Wayne Grudem defines repentance this way: “Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.”<sup>1</sup> Share with the group about a time in your life where God clearly granted you repentance (using Grudem’s definition above).

**Digging Deeper**

2. True repentance always results in an increase of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Take a look at 2 Peter 1:5-11. Are there any character qualities listed in which God is currently enabling growth in your life? If so, which one(s)? Explain.

**Open Your Bible to Luke 13:1-9...**

3. Read vv. 1-5. In what ways are these disasters similar? In what ways are they different? What does the Bible say about God’s sovereignty over such events? How does Amos 3:6 help to answer this question?

4. Spend a few moments as a group reflecting on recent human-caused (v.1) as well as natural disasters (v.4) in our nation. How many can you name in each category? What are common worldly responses to such events? Do you find evidence of such responses in your own heart? In what way(s)?

5. According to Jesus, what is the purpose or design behind these examples of suffering (vv. 3, 5)? Do these sorts of calamities accomplish this intended effect in your own life? If so, how? If not, why not?

6. Read Isaiah 5:1-7 as well as Luke 3:8-9<sup>2</sup>. Now compare these verses with the parable Jesus teaches in vv.6-9. Who does the fig tree represent? How do you know?

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<sup>1</sup> Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids, MI. 1994. p.713.

<sup>2</sup> Other similar biblical images along these lines include: Psalm 80:8-17; Jeremiah 24:1-10; Hosea 9:10, 16; Matthew 21:18-22; John 15:1-6 and Romans 11:11-24. To whom do they refer?

7. While the church does not replace Israel (Romans 11:1-36), we certainly do reflect her, don't we (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11)? How is the church today similar to this barren fig tree (vv.6-9)? How about your own life? Do you see any parallels? Take some time and apply these verses as a group.

8. What specific means of grace does God use to create spiritual growth in your life? When you encounter times of spiritual dryness, what have you found that the Lord uses to bring health and vitality (v.8)? In case you're getting stuck, consider the following sacred pathways: Isaiah 55:8-11; Daniel 6:10; Romans 5:3-5 (Psalm 119:67, 71; Philippians 3:10-11); 1 Timothy 4:4-5 and Psalm 19:1.