

## PARABLES—Section 3, Part 5

Luke 13:1-8

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

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1. 13:1 Jesus was open to legitimate questions from His audience and to engaging in interactive conversation.
2. 13:1 This incident is not known from any other source but fits with what is known of Pilate's reputation.
3. 13:1 The political tension between Rome and Israel made revolutionary activity possible at any time.
4. 13:2 Jesus took the current news and shaped it for eternal purposes.
5. 13:2 It was a common view in the first century that disaster/calamity was a punishment for sin (John 9:2).
6. 13:3, 5 Unless there is repentance of sin, each will be destroyed.
7. 13:3, 5 Jesus was not debating the fact that we all have sin; but not everyone knows they have to repent.
8. 13:3, 5 Do not try to make others greater sinners than yourself...you have sin, you deserve death, you must repent.
9. 13:6 Those listening had so far escaped a fate like the Galileans not because of their goodness but because of God's patience.
10. 13:6 Israel in the first century was an agrarian society. Jesus taught in agricultural analogies and parables because everybody understood it.
11. 13:6-7 A failure to bear fruit in that fertile setting for at least three years made it unlikely that the tree would ever produce. It was also taking up ground that might otherwise be productive.
12. 13:8 God is compassionate, gracious, kind, merciful; even though hope for fruit is dim.
13. 13:8 The parable was "open-ended," so that the listener supplied the conclusion. Those listening knew the real question was not "What happened to the tree?" but, "What will happen to me?"
14. Repentance is not something you put on a list of things to do some day. The Bible declares we must repent now for we do not know what tomorrow holds (Isaiah 55:6).
15. The fact that God does not bring an end to all things here and now does not mean He approves of what sinners are doing; it means God is merciful in His patience.
16. The patience and forbearance of God is the very thing which leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4).
17. Jesus presented this parable as a warning in order to produce hope.



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