

April 7, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Luke 13:1-5** — “Signposts of Eternal Judgment”

- A. When driving, signposts tell us where to go. They also help to save lives. In this morning’s text, Jesus said that calamities are signposts that point us to the coming, eternal judgment.
- B. Throughout the ministry of Jesus, He taught the way to the Father through His teaching, preaching, signs, and wonders. As we just celebrated Easter last Lord’s Day, Jesus foretold how He would give the people the “**sign of Jonah**” in **Lu 11:29**.

God wants you to heed the signposts of His coming judgment.	I. THE REPORT GIVEN TO JESUS II. TRAGEDIES POINT TO THE JUDGMENT
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I. **THE REPORT GIVEN TO JESUS** →**v1**

A. Scripture doesn’t tell us the exact circumstances about why Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judaea, had the Galileans killed.

- 1. They gave this news to Jesus because it was shocking— even dreadful to think about.
- 2. While these men sought to worship God, they were slain along with their sacrifices during their act of devotion.
- 3. Pilate allowed the sinless Son of God, Jesus Christ, to be crucified for political expedience. He may have executed these Jews for a similar reason. Some have said these Galileans may have sought to overthrow Roman rule.

B. We don’t know what else was said to Jesus when this report was given; however, what Jesus said next offers clarification as to what they were thinking when they mentioned this tragedy to our Lord. →**v2**

- 1. The conclusion may have been that God didn’t accept their worship because He allowed them to be executed in such a terrible fashion. They must have been great sinners to deserve that!
- 2. In Jewish thought, not much had changed since the days of Job.
  - a. The argument Job’s counselors brought to him again and again was that his loss of children, servants, property, and health were all because Job committed some great sin that brought God’s punishment upon him. That was not the case.
  - b. We know from the Scriptures that Job was tested by God at the prompting of Satan.
  - c. **Ja 1:2** says that you should “**Consider it all joy...when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.**”
- 3. According to Jesus, the Jews who brought this report only had one conclusion. These Jewish worshippers must have been greater sinners than others.

C. Jesus answered these reporters by saying, “**I tell you, no...**” in **v3**.

- 1. These slain worshippers were not greater sinners than the other sons of Abraham.
- 2. Their terrible fate was not divine punishment for their particular sins.
- 3. Hopefully this will help us to be more gracious and understanding when you or someone you love undergoes great trouble or trial.
- 4. Unless it is an obvious consequence for a particular sin, don’t assume that another person’s great tragedy is the consequence of their being a greater sinner than others.

D. The next logical question is, “Why does God allow tragedies to happen?”

- 1. The first answer is from the fall of our first parents.
- 2. Jesus gave us a second answer in today’s text.

## II. TRAGEDIES POINT TO THE JUDGMENT →vv3-4

- A. When you see the devastation of an earthquake or explosion on TV or on the internet, you see the “PG” version. Those who have to do the cleanup and recovery of the dead bodies are often traumatized.
1. Those poor souls have a greater glimpse of what Jesus taught here.
  2. With those images still in their minds, Jesus said to them and to us, **“unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (v3 and v4).**
- B. The tower of Siloam that fell on eighteen people was in a neighborhood south of Jerusalem’s older city before the city and wall were both expanded.
1. In **Jn 9**, Jesus anointed the eyes of a blind man with clay and told him to wash in the pool of Siloam. He was healed. This is the same neighborhood where the tower was.
  2. Consider when the Twin Towers in Manhattan came crashing down killing over 2,700 people.
    - a. This happened because of murderous terrorists who believe a demonic religion.
    - b. Could God have prevented this from happening?
      - 1) He chose not to. One reason was to wake some people up from their spiritual slumber.
      - 2) When we watch the videos of this or any other great catastrophe, remember the words of Jesus: **“unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”**
- C. The slain worshippers, the fallen tower of Siloam, the twin towers of 9-11-01, and every other terrible tragedy is to remind us of the eternal torments of hell.
1. Jesus wants us to keep the terrible imagery of these events in our minds.
  2. The worst temporal suffering imaginable in this life is to remind us of the eternal fire, thirst, pain, distress, sorrow, and grief of hell.
  3. That should sound so dreadful to you that you would repent— turn from your sin.
    - a. The fear of hell should cause you to plead the blood of Christ to wash away your iniquity.
    - b. Such godly fear will give you a sincere, vigorous endeavor after new obedience.
- D. Before the eternal Son of God took on flesh, the wicked of Israel gave a place known as Gehenna a dreadful reputation.
1. In **Josh 15:8**, this was place called the valley of the Son of Hinnom at the southern slope of modern Jerusalem.
  2. When speaking to one’s brother, according to Jesus, **“whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell” (Mat 5:22).**
    - a. In the Greek, that is more literally the **“Geennan of fire”** or **“Gehenna of fire.”**
    - b. → **Jer 7:31-32**
    - c. Some say it later became a trash heap, perhaps to discourage its use for setting up another pagan altar upon which no one would ever burn a child again. Now, it is a park.
    - d. All this dreadful history was used by Jesus as a vivid illustration of torments of hell.
- E. As we confess our faith using the Apostles’ Creed, we say, that our Lord Jesus “was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead.”
1. Jesus suffered the torments of hell due to all His elect upon the cross.
  2. This is why our Lord was stricken with great grief of soul in the garden of Gethsemane.
  3. That unimaginable suffering was completed when He cried-out, **“It is finished” (Jn 19:30).**

Review, further application, and conclusion: