

Unless You Repent

Introduction: Jesus used questions about tragedies to emphasize the need for repentance.

I) Jesus focuses on the failure of most to recognize His works as acts of God - *Luke 12:54-59*.

II) Jesus refutes tragedy-as-punishment thinking.

A) Examples of such thinking - *John 9:1-2; Acts 28:1-6; Job 2:11-37:24*.

III) Repentance - a key component of the gospel.

A) As Jesus' ministry began - *Mark 1:14-15*.

B) The preparatory work of John the Baptist - *Matthew 3:1-2; Luke 3:3*.

IV) What is repentance?

A) It's only for sinners.

B) It's a product of grace.

C) A radical, life-changing, awareness event which leads to a change in the priorities of one's life.

V) The Holy Spirit exposes unbelief as sin - *John 16:8*.

A) The people of Jesus' day buried their unbelief with lame excuses - *John 7:41,52*.

B) The religious leaders knew Jesus was from God - *John 3:2*.

C) Jesus called out their fraud - *Luke 12:56*.

VI) True vs. false repentance - *2 Corinthians 7:10*.

VII) Components of repentance.

A) Recognition and revulsion.

B) Ongoing avoidance of sin, which produces fruit - *Matthew 3:7-8; Luke 3:10-14*.

VIII) The final parable's question: Repent and bear fruit or be cut down?

Conclusion: Jesus' appearance on earth demands individual action. Luke 13 is not a turnaround *opportunity*; it is a turnaround **necessity**!

God is looking for fruit, not foliage.