

## The Story Church - 2.26.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 14 of 22: *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Why do bad things happen to good people? Reflect on the moments and situations in which you've asked yourself that question. What are some possible answers?

**Today's passage is from Luke 13. Let's start with verses 1-5:**

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." - Luke 13:1-5

**How did Jesus respond to the report from the people that Pontius Pilate had slaughtered a group of Galileans in or near the Temple? How might Jesus' response have been surprising or unexpected?**

**What happened when the Siloam tower fell? Why did Jesus bring up this tragedy while responding to Pilate's atrocities? What did these two tragedies have in common, and how were they different?**

**What point was Jesus making about the larger question of why bad things happen to good people? Also, from the Christian point of view, what's wrong with the notion that "bad things" happen to "good people"?**

**There is one phrase that Jesus repeats, verbatim, in this passage. What is it, and why is it important?**

**What is "the fruit of repentance," and where else is it mentioned in Luke's gospel?**

**To make sense of this passage, let's read on to the next passage from Luke, in which Jesus told a parable to illustrate his point:**

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” - Luke 13:6-9

**Who did the owner of the vineyard represent?**

**Who did the caretaker of the vineyard represent?**

**Who did the unfruitful fig tree represent?**

**Why did the caretaker of the vineyard as the landowner for more time? What did he promise to do if the landowner would grant him one more year?**

**What’s wrong with a fig tree that doesn’t yield figs? Why would that justify the vineyard owner cutting it down?**

**Look at other passages in Scripture that deal with the topic of repentance, and make notes about what repentance and why it’s important.**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

*Your notes:*

**Luke 3:1-9**

*Your notes:*

**Romans 2:4**

*Your notes:*

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

*Your notes:*

**2 Peter 3:9**

*Your notes:*

**What is holding you back from producing the fruit of repentance today?**

*\* Find the full February Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)*

