

CARPE DIEM – SEIZE THE DAY TO LIVE GOD’S WAY

Learning Life-Lessons in Lent, Part 3

Luke 13:1-9

“Oh, the joys of those who ... delight in doing everything the Lord wants ... They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail. Their leaves never wither, and in all they do, they prosper.” Psalm 1:1-3 (NLT)

HOW ARE WE TO VIEW LIFE, DEATH, AND THE AMOUNT OF TIME WE HAVE TO CHOOSE TO FOLLOW GOD?

1. REALIZE THAT SUFFERING CAN

HAVE VARIOUS CAUSES

“About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were sacrificing at the Temple in Jerusalem. ‘Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than other people from Galilee?’ he asked. ‘Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will also perish unless you turn from your evil ways and turn to God.’” Luke 13:1-3 (NLT)

For more on suffering, see also James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:3-7; John 9:1-11; Hebrews 2:10, 12:1-3

2. COME TO TERMS WITH THE APPARENT

UNFAIRNESS OF LIFE

“And what about the eighteen men who died when the Tower of Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will also perish.” Luke 13:4-5 (NLT)

3. TURN TO GOD NOW, AND ...

“And you will also perish unless you turn from your evil ways and turn to God.” Jesus in Luke 13:3b (NLT)

“I tell you again that unless you repent, you will also perish.” Jesus in Luke 13:5b (NLT)

“Then Jesus used this illustration: ‘A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s taking up space we can use for something else.’” Luke 13:6-7 (NLT)

“But blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)

4. GROW BY LIVING GOD’S WAY

“The gardener answered, ‘Give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, you can cut it down.’” Luke 13:8-9 (NLT)

“Don’t you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Or don’t you care? Can’t you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin?” Romans 2:4 (NLT)

“The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree, He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and very green, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.” Psalm 92:12-15 (NAS)