

LUKE Lesson 35

(Luke 13:1-9, 22-30)

1 February 2019

The Requirements for Salvation

1-5 Reports of some Galilaeans who were put to death by Pilate caused some to assume that those people must have suffered God's wrath because they were great sinners. This is a common assumption, but Jesus corrects it in verse 5. "**Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**" There are no "big sinners" and "little sinners." Everyone must repent if they expect to escape God's judgment.

Our message to the lost must necessitate two things: repentance toward God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 5:32, Mark 1:15, Acts 17:30, 19:4).

Jesus saves repentant sinners. If you're enjoying the blessings of God and nothing bad is happening to you, it only proves God is gracious and merciful. It doesn't prove that you're righteous and therefore don't need to repent.

Job 19:28

Job's friends tried hard to convince Job that the things happening to him were the result of a terrible sin that he must have committed. Job reminded them that the root of all trials and troubles is inherent in all of us: sin.

There's no sin in Heaven. Accordingly, there's no sickness, heartache, sorrow, pain, or death.

You may or may not suffer in this life today as a result of sin, but if you repent and receive Jesus Christ, you'll ensure that your suffering will be over in the hereafter.

The sinful acts you commit are not what condemns you. The fact that you are a sinner has condemned you. You might boast about how you always avoid sinful acts, but you're still a sinner who must repent.

6-9 The Parable of the Fig Tree: God created us to bear spiritual fruit unto His glory. John the Baptist told us what kind of fruit the Lord is looking for (**Luke 3:7-9**); "**fruits worthy of repentance.**"

Your life ought to bear witness to the fact that Jesus Christ has saved you. The sins you used to practice will become a thing of the past. There must be an evident change in your life; no more living like the devil.

Doctrinally the fig tree represents religion. It represents man trying to cover up his sins by his own works (Gen 3:7).

Isaiah 5:1-7 The Lord's Vineyard (a practical discussion)

The Lord's vineyard is clearly stated to be the nation of Israel (vs 7), but we can make spiritual application to lost sinners today.

The Lord has gone to great lengths to save sinners. People choose to hold onto sinful practices, presuming that God is "*a God of love who won't send anybody to Hell.*" They don't realize that it's not God's choice. When sinners choose to ignore and reject God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, they are choosing to go to Hell. Turn from sin and trust Jesus Christ and He will save you.

Luke 13:22-30

Easy-Believism (Salvation without repentance) (1-2-3, pray after me)

Repentance: choosing to turn from sins (this is not easy) and trust Jesus Christ to save you (this is not easy).

Humbling yourself and admitting you're lost and that you need to trust a Savior is difficult. It's harder than performing a series of works assigned by a religion.

STRIVE to enter in! (vs 24). You've got a lot of opposition to overcome (family members, friends, corrupt bible versions, false teachers, etc.). It takes diligence and effort on the part of the sinner to get to Jesus Christ.

Enter while the door is open! (vs 25). If you die in your sins and stand before the Righteous Judge and understand the consequences of your sin and your rejection of the Savior, you'll want to change your mind, but it will be too late. There is no second chance. Salvation is by grace (Rom 3:24) through faith (Eph 2:8, Rom 4:5, 1 Pet 1:5), not by works (Titus 3:5). Once you've seen Jesus Christ at the judgment, faith is a thing of the past (Heb 11:1).

I know you not! (vs 27). Many people attend church and even do good works, serving the Lord. They know about Jesus (historically), but they don't know Him (personally). If you don't know Him, He'll say, "Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*? (Hebrews 2:3)