**Everyday Stories of Jesus – Luke 13:5**

**Focal Truth: Repentance leads to spiritual fruitfulness**

Do you know what it means to repent?

When did you first repent of your sins?

What changed in your lifestyle when repented?

**Observations**

1. **Those who die without repenting of their sins die eternally – 13:1 – 5**

*I tell. You, but unless you repent you will all likewise perish – 3 &5*

1. Two events of innocent deaths remind us the certainty of death

The story of the Jews killed by Pilate – 13:1 -2

The story of Jesus about the tower falling on the people – 13:4

1. Everyone is facing death if they do not repent & believe in the Lord Jesus
2. It is the last hour – Lord Jesus is coming if you do not repent you will die in your sin and face judgment – you will perish
3. **Everyone’s life is spiritually fruitful or unfruitful – 13:6 - 7**

*A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. He said to the vineyard-dresser, behold for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?*

1. The owner of the vineyard was looking for fruit on a fig tree

He was inspecting the tree for fruit

He was patient in waiting for fruit from the tree

He was now ready to cut down the unfruitful tree

1. The fig tree was unfruitful after three years – it was time to cut it down!

**Consider**

Every person like a tree produces sinful or righteous fruitfulness - Matt. 7:17 – 19

* Every good tree bears good fruit but the bad tree bears bad fruit
* A good tree cannot produce bad fruit nor can a bad tree produce good fruit
* Every tree that does not bear good fruits is cut down & thrown in the fire

1. **Repentance produces spiritual fruitfulness – 13:8 – 9**

*Let it alone for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer, and if it bears fruit next year fine, but if not, cut it down*

1. The vine-dresser asks the owner for more time to work with the tree
2. The vine-dresser digs around the tree – digging- tilling the soil around the tree

* Digging loosens the soil for rain
* Digging breaks up the roots
* Digging removes bad soil

1. The vine-dresser asks for time to fertilize the tree – fertilizer = manure

* Fertilizing takes time
* Fertilizing takes effort
* Fertilizing produce growth & fruitfulness

1. Repentance of sin produces spiritual fruitfulness

John the Baptist – **Bear fruit that reveals repentance**

1. Repentance is God’s gardening tool to produce spiritual fruitfulness

Isa. 30:15 – *for thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel has said, in repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength*

**Consider**

Luke 6:44 – Each tree is known by its fruit

Repentance is possible because of the kind grace of God to wait for the repentant

Repentance comes from the conviction of the Holy Spirit – Jhn16:7

*When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin & righteousness & judgment*

Repentance produces the fruit of the Spirit- Gal. 5:22

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, tender heartedness…*

Repentance produces good works of fruitfulness – Col. 1:6

*Bearing good fruit in every good work*

Repentance produces fruitfulness of new believer’s & disciples of Christ – Rom. 1:13

*I have planned to come to you so that I may obtain some fruit among you, even as among the rest of the Gentiles*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **An unfruitful spiritual life is a spiritually dead life**

**“**Cut it down!” – the result of unfruitfulness

1. **God’s grace leads to repentance**

Rom. 2:4 – *the kindness of God leads to repentance*

1. **Spiritual fruitfulness comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior**

John15:8 – *My father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, so prove to be My disciples*

1. **Real repentance produces lasting spiritual fruitfulness**

John15:16 – *I have appointed you to go & bear fruit & that your fruit would remain*

Col. 1:6 – *bearing fruit in every good work*