

Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Sunday School Notes  
Luke 13

Luke 13:1-5

There is a world view that has always stated, "You get what you deserve". Some people were asking Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices, as though, somehow, they were guilty of a greater sin. Jesus makes it clear that those Galileans were not guilty of a greater sin because they suffered such. The message to repent is clear. If we all do not repent, then we can expect a greater and more harsh punishment, ie eternal damnation. Now it must be made clear here that repentance is a key component to faith. The faith that God creates in us, by His Holy Spirit, causes repentance in us. So, the lack of repentance is an actual rejection of God.

Luke 13:6-9

Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree. Something interesting that we brought up in class was this; in the garden of Eden all of the trees would have produced fruit on a constant basis. With the advent of the curse that is not the case any longer. So Jesus coming and not finding fruit on the fig tree harkens back to the curse. There is mercy and grace shown to the fig tree by the vinedresser. He wants a chance to bring the fig tree back into production, and ultimately Jesus will bring all creation back to the garden reality.

Luke 13:10-17

Another Sabbath controversy takes place, where Jesus heals a woman afflicted by a demon in the Sabbath. Jesus is the Word become flesh, and as such has creation within his sphere of control. Jesus, with a word, is able to bring all things into submission to Himself. This is precisely what happens when He tells this demon to depart from the woman, and the demon departs. The legalists have a huge problem with anyone who breaks laws. They understand that the Sabbath, which was intended by God to be a gospel of mercy and grace, as a legal construct that was designed to keep people in control. Jesus upends this human idea and returns the Sabbath back into its proper alignment as it was intended by God.

Luke 13:18-21

Jesus explains that the Kingdom of God (the forgiveness of sins) is like a mustard seed that is planted in his garden. This will be a huge problem for first century ears. The purposeful planting of a mustard plant in a garden will, by definition, attract birds. That is the last thing that human beings want to do. We erect scarecrows for the purpose of ridng gardens of birds. In fact, here at CTR we place a plastic hawk in the atrium to discourage birds from coming and nesting. Jesus makes it very clear that the kingdom of God belongs to all those whom the world would deem as undesirable. How can we form and fashion our lives so that we help provide for those that the world would deem as "outcasts"?

Luke 13:22-30

Jesus is asked if only a few people will be saved. He tells them, and us, that the door to salvation is very narrow. It is so narrow that it is through Jesus alone. On the day of judgement, many will inquire entry by saying they knew Jesus. But he will respond in a different way. It is not whether we know Jesus, it is whether He knows us. The only way for Jesus to know us, is by the faith that he himself creates in us. The faith that you currently have in him.

Luke 13:31-35

Jesus laments of Jerusalem, God's holy city. If only that city would have listened to the prophets, instead of killing them. So it must be that Jesus go to Jerusalem, so that this city can complete what it had always done throughout history, kill in the name of religion, power and control. The city is and will be forsaken. When Jesus comes again with glory he will bring the new Jerusalem into reality.