



## **BUT WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT IT?** **“What Did Jesus Say About Calamities?” Luke 13:1-9**

No. 3713

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### **I. The Setting. vv. 1-5**

- A. Jesus charges His hearers with hypocrisy. 12:54-56
  - 1. They are adept at forecasting the weather through observing the signs.
  - 2. They are inept at reading the signs to “interpret the present time.”
- B. Jesus cautions His hearers about lethargy. 12:57-59
  - 1. What is holding them back from correct interpretation?
  - 2. Why don’t they see that they are heading for a judicial showdown?
  - 3. Wouldn’t it be smart to sort things out while there is still time?
  - 4. Will they not recognize if they don’t settle “they won’t get out”?
- C. The issues of atrocities and natural disasters are raised. vv. 1, 4
- D. The unspoken assumptions of ancient and modern people
  - 1. Ancient view: Calamities are God’s response to human sin.
  - 2. These were terrible calamities so their sin must have been unforgivable.
  - 3. Modern view: Bad things should not happen to us. We’re good people.
  - 4. If they do, God, if He exists, is either impotent or immoral, or both.
- E. The outspoken statements of Jesus.
  - 1. Those who died were not worse sinners than those who did not die.
  - 2. So the calamity was not a divine response to particularly egregious sin.
  - 3. Those who died and those who didn’t all merited judgment.
  - 4. All who sin will die sometime, perhaps in a calamity, perhaps not.
  - 5. Understanding the issues of sin, death, and perishing is what matters.

### **II. The Parable. vv. 6-9**

- A. Jesus’ hearers are like a fig tree that is unproductive.
- B. He has continued to minister to them without fruitful response.
- C. Their opportunity to respond is about to end.
- D. They have been given a gracious extension, but should know it is limited.

### **III. The Point.**

- A. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
- B. God is not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
- C. I tell you now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2

**Points to Ponder:** Why does God provide good things for sinful people?