

Lesson 13

Luke 13

Repentance, Hypocrisy, Growth of the Church

Note: *In Chapter 13, Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem to be crucified by those he came to save. He tells his disciples, the Pharisees, the multitude at large, and us what is necessary to enter God's kingdom.*

1. When Jesus was asked if those who died an early death were worse sinners than the rest, Jesus said: "No; but unless you repent, you will likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5)
 - a. What does Jesus mean by "repent"?
 - b. What does Jesus mean by "perish"?
2. How would you interpret the parable of the fig tree if you saw God the Father as the owner and Jesus as the gardener? (Luke 13:6-9)
3. How did Jesus respond to the ruler of the synagogue, who was indignant because Jesus healed on the Sabbath? (Luke 13:15-16)
4. What do you think Jesus meant when he said in Mark 2:27: "The Sabbath was made for the good of man; man was not made for the Sabbath"?
5. In both parables of the mustard seed in the ground and the yeast in the flour, what is the common theme describing the kingdom of God? (Luke 13:18-21)
6. When the people asked Jesus how many would be "saved," he told them to "strive to enter by the narrow door" (or gate). What does the image of the narrow door mean to you? (Luke 13:22-24; Matt 7:13-14; John 10:7-8)
7. According to St. Paul, how is a person "saved"? (Eph 2:8-10)
8. Jesus said that people from "east and west, and from north and south" (meaning all nations) will sit at the table in the kingdom of God. What does Jesus mean when he says: "And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last"? (Luke 13:30; Matt 19:28-30; Mk 10:31)
9. Even the Pharisees warned Jesus about going to Jerusalem, saying that Herod wanted to kill him. Why did he continue on his way to Jerusalem? (Luke 13:31-34; CCC 557, 558)
10. Both Matthew (23:37) and Luke (13:34-35) said Jesus lamented over the sacred city of Jerusalem.
 - a. Why did he lament?
 - b. To what would Jesus compare himself to protect the children of Jerusalem?
 - c. How would you describe the nature of Jesus using this comparison?

If you would like a challenge?

11. Many stories in the media tell about tragic and unexpected deaths. How often do they remind you of your own need for repentance?