

## Luke 13:1-5, "Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People?"

✎ We are working our way through this amazing history of the Lord Jesus Christ that is called the Book of Luke. Jesus is surrounded by countless thousands on this occasion where He takes on some of the world's most commonly asked questions in Luke 13:1-5. This is typical human thinking as also occurs in Acts 28:3-4.

### 1. Why do bad things happen?

- ✓ The world we live in has many questions for those who place their faith in God, "If God is good, then why is the world bad? If God is good, why do bad things happen? If God is good and is in control, why does He let evil continue?" Why is it this way? Why does the rain fall on the just and the unjust?, Matthew 5:45. Part of our answer is that God is gracious to bad people and blesses them even though they don't acknowledge Him. So, bad people have good things happen to them, therefore, it seems logical that good people should have it good all the time. What are we missing? Good things happen to bad people because God is gracious but why do bad things happen to good people?
- ✓ The real answer is simple, there are **no good people!!** With the exception of Jesus, bad things have never happened to good people since the dawn of creation because there haven't been any good people since then. Watch how Jesus confronts this common wrong thinking in Luke 18:18-19. There was a brief time when people were good, Adam and Eve had it all good. God even said it was "very good" in Genesis 1:31. Adam and Eve became bad as result of sin and gave birth to bad people!, see Genesis 5:1 & 3. This is corroborated in the New Testament in Romans 3:10-12. The real question isn't "why do bad things happen?," but "why do good things ever happen?" We operate from a false premise that there are good people. This wrong premise has led to two wrong conclusions.
  - 1) "God must be evil to treat good people this way." "Why do bad things happen to good people?" This is a question that shows just how confused we are.
  - 2) "There is no God because if there were He wouldn't let bad things happen to good people."
- ✓ In our thinking, it's unthinkable and an anomaly that bad things should happen to good people when, in fact, it's an anomaly that good things happen at all since there are no good people!
  - 1) Bad things happen and we are confused.
  - 2) We should be confused when good things happen.

### 2. God is being very gracious and merciful to us. Let's review our definitions of mercy and grace.

- ✓ **Mercy** is not getting what you do deserve, Romans 6:23. Anything this side of Hell is a good day!
- ✓ **Grace** is getting what we do not deserve, Romans 5:7-8. Jesus died for God haters. He died for His enemies. If you look on someone to lust, you are an adulterer, "I don't think that's right" it doesn't matter! If you hate someone, you're a murderer, that's the way He takes it! Can't we agree that who hate God and are His enemies deserve to go to Hell??
- ✓ Bad things happening to people makes perfect sense. Good things happening to sinners does not. Hell makes perfect sense, Hell is a fitting, logical and fair destination for those who break the Creator of the Universe's laws. Heaven does not make sense, Heaven is not a fitting, logical or fair destination of those who break His rules. If we are not in Hell, isn't that pure mercy? If we ever have anything good, isn't that pure grace?

### 3. We are living under the administration of mercy and grace, so things will often not make logical sense.

- ✓ There may or may not be a direct relationship between our behavior and what happens to us. If there were then as soon as we sinned we should be zapped!

**Things go wrong and bad for us and we shake our fist at heaven and say, "this isn't fair!!"**  
**This is exactly true because fair is you and I burning in Hell. Because God is gracious and merciful, we have good things in our lives, we have health and longevity, we aren't zapped when we sin, and we often are rewarded when we do well.**