

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### REPENT

Luke 13:1-5 “There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Nothing stirs up a community more than some type of catastrophic occurrence whether natural or initiated by humans. In today’s devotional verses there was the spiritual defilement of Galileans by Herod and a tower collapsing causing the death of 18. People then, as now, were quick to try to determine why such events happen. They came to a conclusion that the things that happened to these men were because of some egregious sin or sins they had committed.

Jesus rebuffed their ideas. He said, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way” and likewise concerning those upon whom the wall fell, “. . .do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?”

They were all sinners! This, of course, reminds you that you also sin every day. Further, this discussion by Jesus reminds you that sins may be greater than others while others lesser, but what matters is to repent of them. Jesus concluded, “I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Lenski in his commentary on Luke says, “every calamity that sweeps men away is a divine call to repent and a divine warning to escape perishing forever by repenting. . .” The Scriptures teach that “the wages of sin is death.” Since we all sin, we will all die from one cause or another. What matters is whether you recognize your sin, confess it to your heavenly Father with remorse and sorrow, and then ask for forgiveness through the merits of Jesus’ life, crucifixion on Calvary’s cross and Easter resurrection. St. John writes in 1 John 1:9, “If we

confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, through Your Law cause me to know I am a sinner, to repent and to receive Your forgiveness for Jesus’ sake. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin’s dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just; This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.

Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God’s abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

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