

"Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [2] And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate? [3] "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. [4] "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? [5] "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5; NAS).

The tragedies of 09-11-01 still shock and over-whelm us. We begin to wonder if life will ever again return to "normal." In the wake of the terrible events of that day we try to make some sense out of it all. Let me offer the above text as one way in which to put these disasters in perspective.

I believe that in Lk. 13:1-5 Jesus is teaching the universal need of everyone to repent. It is not the manner of death that is important; it is whether or not those who die are ready to face God in eternal judgment. Undoubtedly, among those who perished in the catastrophe of Sept. 11th, some were ready to meet God and some were not. The question to those of us who are alive and remain is very much the same. Are you to be numbered in that group who have repented and are ready to meet God, or those who have not and are not?

Our prayers, concerns and support must continue go out to the families of those who lost their lives. Such a tragedy will take a lifetime to overcome. But how will we "likewise perish?" Will we do so unprepared? Or will we be ready to meet God'?

See you Sunday!

-gls