

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

JESUS CHRIST THE SON OF MAN

## LUKE CHAPTER 13:1-9

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### GET SMART

*THE HUMANITY AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST,  
THE SON OF GOD, AND THE SON OF MAN*

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SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Repentance, Sin, Judgment, Mercy, God's Longsuffering**

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Growing Up, I used to love watching a program called "Get Smart"  
Agent Smart was a high-ranking, special agent, secret weapon for "Control"  
but the best part was; Agent Maxwell Smart (86) was a Clueless, Bumbling, Accident Prone Goof.

### **To "Get Smart" was to Capture agent Smart.**

But the Title was a Play on Words. Because we would watch week after week and wonder, when was agent Maxwell Smart ever going to "Get Smart"!

**...and the same can be said about many people today within  
Christianity.**

because of a willful neglect to know God's nature and to understand His will, many draw their own conclusions as to what is happening around them and why without knowing the heart of God..

#### **Luke 13:1-9**

There were present **at that season** some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **:2** And Jesus answered and said to them, "**Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? :3** I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**:4** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? **:5** I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."**:6** He also spoke this parable: "A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. **:7** Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, "Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?" **:8** But he answered and said to him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize *it*. **:9** And if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

Jesus is now closing in on arriving at Jerusalem.

He has been moving southward and toward the cross.  
with each day that passes, His ministry is more focused  
on the issues of discipleship and fellowship with God.

AS THE MESSAGE “INTENSIFIES” THE NEED FOR HIS FOLLOWERS TO  
UNDERSTAND AND TO TRUST, INTENSIFIES ALSO...

## There’s no doubt about it;

all of us prefer **comfort** over **conviction**, **encouragement** over **challenges**

“as pleasing as comfort is, it has no character building value.  
and as wonderful as encouragement is, it does nothing to prepare us.”

## Conviction and Challenges

are things developed within us and are worked out of us.

### These Are Things That We Need to “Get Smart” About

#### GET SMART

1.) Atrocities are not from God

v.1-2

1a.) So what are we to think ?

v.1-2

There were present **at that season** some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. :2 And Jesus answered and said to them, “**Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no;**

### not much is known about this atrocity.

*but what we do know is that there had been an attempt to stop Pilate from building an aqueduct that would bring water into downtown Jerusalem. the problem was Pilate had determined to use tax-exempt dollars, temple funds to build it – many Galileans saw this for what it was - he was robbing God! so the Galileans revolted. Pilate ordered a covert mission to round-up the leaders and while those leaders were making their offerings to the Lord, the soldiers attacked.*

We don’t know the motive of the people or why they brought up this situation to Jesus, but we do know that it was widely known throughout Israel.

“Do you suppose that these Galileans were **worse sinners** than all *other Galileans*, because they suffered such things? I tell you, **no;**

We do know however, that Jesus capitalizes on it to reveal;  
The Attributes of God, The Dangers of Sin and the Natural Laws.

## “Why do bad things happen to good people?”

that question is always a faulty one, it assumes that either;

- (1) bad things are not to happen to good people (2) bad things can only happen to bad people  
(3) good things can only happen to good people.

the answer is:

“why do good things happen to anyone at all.”

*or*

“Why does anything good happen to anybody?”

### John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but **be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”

### James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

## where’s God when an Atrocity comes ?

the assumption is that God must have abandoned them.

Is that logic consistent with the **Attributes** of God? Is it consistent with the **Dangers of Sin?** / Or is it consistent with the **Natural Laws?**

**THERE COULD BE SOMETHING EVEN MORE SINISTER  
GOING ON HERE...**

“Do you suppose?” – ah, yes they did  
and so Jesus slams the door on **self justification.**

we humans are evil judges and we view things through an evil eye.  
if I can find a sin in your life, then the sin in my life doesn’t look so bad.

“Never underestimate a man’s ability to justify himself”

“But Look, *those people over there, hard times have fallen upon them,  
they must be really bigger sinners*”

Fact: All Galileans were sinners, period!

**Romans 3:23**

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

uJstere+w hustereo, *hoos-ter-eh'-o*; from 5306; to be deficient in or to be destitute or lacking in what is required. not possessing what is demanded. bankrupted.

## ATROCITIES ARE NOT FROM GOD

**1b.) So what are we to do ?**

**v.3**

but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Jesus is Saying;

“Never mind what happened to them, what’s going to happen to you?”

### The Act of Repentance

metanoē+w metanoēo, met-an-o-eh'-o;

to think differently, to reconsider. to alter your way of thinking.

(to change the mind. it’s an intellectually moral shift in thinking.

a non-emotionally based conclusion.

“think differently about the \_\_\_\_\_ in your life

Notice that Jesus says “Unless **YOU** repent” – you have a choice in the matter.

Even this call to a *change of mind* is yet another example of God’s great love and desire for us.

**Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us,  
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Is this an **Attribute** of God?

~~Or is this the **Dangers** of Sin? / Or is This a **Natural Law** at Work?~~

**Lamentations 3:25-26**

The LORD *is* good to those who wait for Him, To the soul *who* seeks Him. :26 *It is* good that *one* should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the LORD.

**Nahum 1:7**

The LORD *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble;  
And He knows those who trust in Him.

To Repent  
is to “Forsake” your sin and to “Trust” in Christ  
(in one perfect movement)

**Acts 3:19**

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

**GET SMART**

**2.) Accidents will happen in life**

**v.4-5**

**2a.) Death is native to this world**

**v.4**

Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no;

**Death is an Inescapable Reality in This World;**  
*(God didn't leave you, He did not quit on you)*

~~Is this an Attribute of God?~~

Or is this the ~~Dangers of Sin? / Or is This a Natural Law at Work?~~

“death is just part of life”,  
excuse me. death is a theft. it's an invader.  
death was never to be part of God's plan.

When Death Comes  
It Causes Us to Reconsider Things...

**Romans 6:23**

For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God  
*is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Verse 4**

do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no;

An Example of the Lord's Kingdom Taking Back that Which was Lost

**John 9:1-3**

Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. :2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" :3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

## ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN IN LIFE

### 2b.) Suffering has a purpose

v.5

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

### Suffering is an Interesting Thing.

a man or woman will either draw closer to God because of it  
or go push further Away from Him for it...

**Acts 14:22, 1 Peter 2:21, Philippians 3:10, 1 Peter 5:10,  
2 Timothy 3:12, 2 Corinthians 4:17**

**Acts 14:22**

and they went about strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

## Jesus is More Clearly Seen from the Trenches

**1 Peter 2:21**

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**Philippians 3:10**

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

**1 Peter 5:10**

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

**2 Timothy 3:12**

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

**2 Corinthians 4:17**

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,

## The Effects of Death & Suffering

and what Jesus Offers you and I

## GET SMART

**3.) Apathy has no excuse**

**v.6-9**

**3a.) Complacent with God's goodness**

**v.6-7**

:6 He also spoke this parable: "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. :7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, "Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?"

### **The Doctrine of God's Goodness**

#### **Romans 2:3-4**

And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? :4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the **goodness** (kind, gentle, easy ways) of God leads you to repentance?

Stop and Think about Your Life and What He Knows about It

## **APATHY HAS NO EXCUSE**

**3b.) Indifferent to God's mercy**

**v.8**

But he (the caretaker) answered and said to him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig** around it and **fertilize it**."

If, in this Parable, Jesus is Speaking about the Fig-Tree as being a Type of the nation Israel, and the vineyard being the world. Then Jesus here is the Caretaker and the Father is as the Owner. – recognize the mercy of God !

### **This is Consistent with Scripture;**

The Father is Saying, Enough! But The Son is Pleading, Just one more year

#### **Lamentations 3:22**

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are **not consumed**, because his compassions fail not.

a great picture of God's mercy through Jesus Christ.

#### **1 Timothy 2:5**

For there is one God and one **Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

Being The Mediator, Jesus is our “Middle Man” to the Father.

**1 John 2:1-2**

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

:2 And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins

**propitiation** iJlasth/rion hilasterion, *hil-as-tay'-ree-on*;

the atoning offering. the one who pays the debt. In the Hebrew language, it speaks of the lid atop the Ark of the covenant – mercy seat, seat of propitiation.

“Sir, let it alone this year also, until I **dig** around it and **fertilize it**.

Jesus is Interceding – *just a little more time Father...*

## **The Doctrine of God’s Mercy**

“I’ll **Dig** around their lives and I will **feed** them with nutrients.”

**BUT THERE WILL COME A TIME, WHEN TIME IS UP.**

For now Jesus is Saying “Father, give me one more year to get through to them.

one more year of blessings for them, that they might see.

or one more year of hardship and difficulty that they might feel.

one more year that just might cause them to turn to me and be healed.

## **APATHY ISN’T AN EXCUSE**

**3c.) Unconscious of God’s righteousness**

**v.9**

*And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ ”*

**WHAT ABOUT ME**, am I producing good things for others to eat of?

Am I drawing people toward Jesus Christ or pushing them away from Him? After people get to know me, do they want to become Christians too?

*And if he bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut him down.’ ”*

*And if she bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut her down.*

*And if I bear fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut me down.*



*End of Study*

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