

The Tomorrow Trap

Luke 13:1-9 ▪ February 22, 2026 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

No one is safe from _____. vs. 1-5

Jesus offers an escape from _____. vs. 3, 5

God _____ fruitful repentance. vs. 6-9

Luke 13:1-9

¹ There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; 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 offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

⁶ And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' ⁸ And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. ⁹ Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What is something you've been putting off doing? Why is it so easy to tell ourselves, "I'll get to that tomorrow"?

Read & Discuss: Luke 13:1-9

1. In verses 1-5 Jesus responds to tragic news by challenging the common assumption that suffering happens only to the worst of sinners. Why do you think people often assume that tragedy is the result of divine punishment? How does Jesus' response redirect our focus away from judging others and toward examining our own hearts?
2. Twice Jesus says, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (vv. 3, 5). What does Jesus mean by this? Why is it so easy to assume that repentance is something we can deal with later? What related scriptures might help direct our thinking here? (Consider Rom 6:1-4) How have you personally experienced the internal tug-of-war between knowing you need to make a change regarding your sin and delaying that change to another day?
3. In the parable of the fig tree (vv. 6-9), the owner looks for fruit and finds none. What kinds of "fruit" do you think Jesus is seeking in the lives of His followers? When you consider your own life, where do you see signs of growth, and where do you sense stagnation?
4. The gardener pleads for more time and promises to dig around the tree and fertilize it (v. 8). What does this reveal about God's patience and His desire for our transformation? Can you think of ways God has dug around and disturbed your life—not to harm you, but to help you grow?
5. The parable ends with a warning that if no fruit comes, the tree will be cut down (v. 9). Why is it important that God is both a patient and faithful executor of justice? How does the fact that time eventually runs out motivate you to stay active and intentional in your faith?
6. Looking back at your own journey, what has helped you move from the intention to change to actually doing so? What are some practical ways we can encourage one another to stay out of the "tomorrow trap"?

Apply: What is one specific area where you sense Jesus calling you to stop delaying and to take a step of obedience, repentance, or growth this week? What will that step look like?

Pray: Ask God to break the "Tomorrow Trap" in our hearts, giving us a sense of urgency to live for Him with a deep gratitude for the mercy He shows us every day.