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Reading - Luke ch 13 v 1-9

The Word of God is up to date and is applicable to the time we live. Books of the world go out of date but the Word of God is unchanged and unchanging. The central theme of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. The scriptures are full of the Lord Jesus Christ, His glory and purposes.

It is vital if we are to know Salvation that we know His word. What are woman and men today asking about God?

There are many sufferings in the world at the moment. The questions they are asking are:

Why is this happening? Why has God allowed this? Is it a judgment on the people?

There are natural catastrophes outside of the hands of men but there are also evil men who are seeking conflict. Oppressing the people and causing misery. We hear of major disasters and ask why? Was there something wrong with the people that caused them to deserve it? Do you think God doesn't care about people that suffer? Do you question the love of God? Do you question God's justice?

God has not lost any control of this world. Men have been allowed to rise up and do certain things but this is in Gods control and His plan for earth and the people.

Unless you repent you will likewise perish.

Where do you stand before God?

A company of two halves not rich or poor or left and right but God sees into the heart and He divides the company gathered into those who are saved and those who are lost. Those who are going to heaven and those facing hell as a destination.

You have to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour or you are destined to go to hell.

We are born in sin.

“All we like sheep have gone astray” Isaiah 53:6

God tells us in His word what is right or wrong. Our hearts are full of sin before a holy God.

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23

God will render to everyone according to there deeds.

God knows everything about us our darkest secrets of our minds. All are known to God - All seeing and all knowing. God is holy.

The word of God is “quick and powerful and sharper than a two edged sword“.

Have you ever got into the presence of God and admitted you are a sinner and in need of Gods Salvation?

What are you going to do with the opportunity God has given you?

It is dangerous to leave the building and go away and think about Salvation.

“Behold now is the accepted time now is the day of Salvation”.

The God of heaven is interested in you and me. The nations are as a drop in the bucket. He knows and

is interested in you.

John 3:16

Those outside of Christ who don't have their sins forgiven are lost.

God holds out a lifeline. If you trust Him, you will not perish.

What does it mean to perish?

To cease to exist ?

Reincarnation?

The Bible says "It is appointed unto men once to die and after this judgement"

If God is a God of love why death? Why are people dying?

Death is a result of sin. God is a God of power and order. An all powerful God. God chose to create the world in six days and rest on the 7th day. When He first created the world there was no sin. Everything was very good.

"By one man sin came into the world and death by sin" Romans 5:12

Through Adam sin came into the world and God put this world under a curse. We can quickly blame Adam yet if we were there we would probably have done the same thing. We disobey God on a daily basis. All sin is against God. King David sinned and committed murder and adultery but he spoke to God and said "against thee have I sinned".

Why does God not see that those things don't happen?

There were two others crucified with the Lord Jesus Christ. One of them wanted to be off the cross and continuing in sin - wasn't bothering about the world he was looking after number one. He wasn't a changed man. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" Hebrews

How loud does God have to speak to us and how long?

In this passage Jesus tells a parable and brings it down to the individual. The one tree.

There was one tree in the vineyard causing a problem. The vineyard was expected to bring forth fruit. The man wanted to cut the tree down because in three years it hadn't borne any fruit and was taking goodness out of the ground. We are like that tree. We are living like we have only ourselves to please. God expects fruit in our lives. In sin it is impossible to please God. Without faith we cannot please Him.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God"

We are not our own masters - We are either the servants of God or the servants of sin. Some say I try my best to be good, to go to church and help others but unless we have our sins forgiven it is impossible to please God and produce fruit for Him.

None of us know how long we have on this earth.

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth"

We are not guaranteed tomorrow. There is danger in delay. The devil is active and seeks to take thoughts of Salvation away from us.

"Now is the accepted time behold now is the day of Salvation".

“Harden not your heart”

There was a reprieve for this tree. The gardener decided to give the tree extra attention for 1 year and then if no fruit was produced then it would be cut down.

God accepts those in their need. You don't have to improve your life then get saved. That's the wrong way round. God accepts those who acknowledge they are sinners and claim His Salvation. He puts them on the road to life.

What does it mean to repent?

Turn your back on sin. You need to take sides with God. God says we are sinners - Agree

How can we be saved?

The Lord Jesus Christ died at Calvary on the cross. He was sinless but hung on the tree on account of our sin. He was the just who suffered for us the unjust. “Died the just for the unjust” The “Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”.

God can forgive us because of what was accomplished at Calvary. What awaits those who are Christians?

We know that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God and a place prepared for us in heaven (John 14:2,3)

If you saved and not baptised you should be.

If you leave the building without God you are against Him.

“What think ye of Christ?”

If you go out without Salvation you think nothing of Him and are taking sides with the world against Him.

Get right with God while you have the opportunity.