



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **An Unwanted Story!**

**Luke 13:1-17**

**Message #42 of 50 – S822**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

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# **An Unwanted Story!**

***Luke 13:1-17***

## **Opening Comments**

- Turn to **Luke 13**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- For the last few months my mom has been complaining of not being able to breathe well, and that she gets winded doing the smallest of things
- Both her primary doctor and her cardiologist recommended she see a lung doctor for the first time
- This week Kelly took her to see him
- After checking her out and hearing her story, he told her, ‘Doctor Peterson and Doctor Dang are nice guys. I am not a nice guy.’
- He then proceeded to tell her what she needed to hear, including significant changes she needs to make in her life.
- He was then dubbed ‘The Mean Doctor’
- Let’s be real for a minute – we usually want to hear what we want to hear, and not what we need to hear
- The ‘Mean Doctor’ told my mom what she needed to hear – not what she wanted to hear
- His message to her was unwanted
- But because he told her what she needed to hear, she is making changes in her life that are good for her
- In today’s message, Jesus is going to be the ‘Mean Doctor’
- He is going to tell those listening what they need to hear
- And I would suggest that we may need to hear what He tells them also
- **Pray**

## **Teaching**

- **An Unwanted Story!**
- Somebody has to have the courage to tell us what we need to hear
- Including telling us when what we think or believe is not right or true

- **Luke 13:1-2**
- The common belief then, and with many today is that calamity and misfortune is a judgment from God for our sins
- Jesus asks a rhetorical question and then answers it
- **Luke 13:3**
- There had to be some reason why Pilate committed this atrocity, but it wasn't because the Galileans were terrible sinners
- Jesus then turns from this atrocity to describe a tragedy
- **Luke 13:4**
- This was a random, unexpected tragedy
- Same rhetorical question – same answer
- **Luke 13:5**
- Jesus uses a vicious atrocity and a random accident to make a point
- All sinners are equally guilty in the sight of God. Humans measure degrees of guilt and wickedness of sinners. Compared to God's holiness, all humans are equally distant from God. **Romans 3:23**  
...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
- Jesus tells the multitudes 'unless you repent'
- You would think that the word 'repent' was a curse word by the way some churches refuse to talk about it
- When God calls us to repent, it is a personal invitation from our loving Father in heaven to enter into His grace and mercy
- The Bible tells us that there are two destinies available for all humans – both of them are everlasting destinies **John 3:16**  
**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**
- Everlasting perishing or everlasting life
- When God calls us to repent it is because we are headed toward everlasting perishing and He loves us too much to let us go there without warning us
- How many of you use GPS when you are driving?
- I have been using Waze for a while – I don't always agree with where it wants me to go
- So, sometimes I will choose my own route
- And then Waze will tell me to change direction so that I can get to where I told it I wanted to go

- Waze is telling me to repent
- I got tired of Waze telling me what to do so I turned off the voice directions
- When God tells us to repent it is because I am headed in the wrong direction
- Jesus then gives us a parable that tells that true repentance is visible
- **Luke 13:6-9**
- Turn to **Luke 3**
- God is looking for fruit in the lives of His people
- In this parable, the ‘certain man’ is God the Father
- The ‘keeper’ is Jesus and the ‘fig tree’ are those people who claim to be God’s people
- If you claim to be one of God’s people, He expects good fruit to be produced in your life
- John the Baptist addressed this same topic

- **Luke 3:7-9**

- If you have truly repented, there will be evidence of that in your life
- Turn back to **Luke 13**

**Humans were created to glorify God. If they do not, they can serve no other useful purpose.**

- We are here on this earth for a reason – to glorify God, to bless others, and to grow faith
- If we are doing anything else with our lives than that, we need to change our direction, we are going the wrong way
- God gives us the choice – what story do you want to live?

**Deuteronomy 30:19**

**I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live...**

- Do you want to live the story that leads to everlasting perishing or the story that leads to everlasting life?
- You choose! If you choose the wrong way, God loves you too much to let you keep going that way
- He will warn you – turn in a different direction – repent – turn toward God’s grace, mercy, and love

- One of the things that I love about God and about being a Christian is that our story can change
- No one is stuck – God is always looking to change our life
- And thankfully, there is no limit to the ways that God can change our lives
- We see an example of that in the next part of our text
- **Luke 13:10-11**
- This poor woman has a serious disability – 18 years not able to stand up straight
- While it manifested in her physically – ‘spirit of infirmity’ – tells us there was a supernatural cause
- Nothing anyone could do for 18 years
- But notice where she is – she is at synagogue
- She didn’t let her disability keep her away from corporate worship

#### **Hebrews 10:23-25**

Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- She had a perfectly good reason to skip coming to synagogue every week, but there she was
- No one else seems to notice her, but Jesus does

#### **Luke 13:12-13**

- This woman had an unwanted story – she was not living the story she wanted for her life
- Jesus with a word and a touch changed her story
- This woman loved God and didn’t need the ‘Mean Doctor’ – she needed the ‘Good Shepherd’
- And that was what Jesus was to her
- And her response was to glorify God – which was right because the power of God just manifested in a powerful way
- Not everyone approves of this change to her story

#### **Luke 13:14**

- It is interesting that he rebukes the crowd

- This man is blinded by his religion to the manifest beauty of what just happened in his presence
- This man was going the wrong way and he needed the ‘Mean Doctor’ to tell him to change his direction
- **Luke 13:15-17**
- Jesus always told people what they needed to hear
- Jesus was never mean – but he was bold, and He unflinchingly told the truth, whether people wanted to hear or not
- When my mom referred to the doctor as the ‘Mean Doctor’, he wasn’t actually being mean – he was being bold and telling her the truth
- My GPS is not being mean when it tells me I am going the wrong way
- God is writing a story in your life – the story of Jesus living in you and through you
- There is a good story that He wants to write in your life
- How do we get to that life? To the abundant life?
- If I am trying to go somewhere and I don’t know the way, I turn to Waze and ask it to navigate
- Waze utilizes GPS = global positioning satellites
- God wants us to find our way, and so, He has provided us with spiritual GPS
- First one – **God’s Perfect Scriptures**
- God gave us the Bible, His Word, so that we can find our way to the life He created us to live
- A life that glorifies Him, blesses others, and grows in faith **Psalm 119:9**

**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.**

- **Psalm 119:105**

**Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

- We can navigate this complex life with fewer wrong turns and detours if we follow the directions of God Perfect Scriptures
  - The second thing God has provided – **God’s Present Spirit**
  - When we receive Christ, He sends us the Holy Spirit to live in us
  - He does many things, but one of them is to guide us **John 16:13**
- However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**

- If we will listen for His voice, the Holy Spirit will guide us the best life possible
- The third thing – **God's Precious Servants**
- There 24 satellites orbiting the planet providing GPS data
- They are arranged in such a way that there are at least four in view from any point on the planet
- God created us to live in community with other Christians
- Anyone who has the Word of God and the Spirit of God can be used by God to help you navigate this strange world
- The more of God's people you have in orbit around your life, the better the information you will get and the better the story of your life will become
- I have learned to trust Waze to get me where I need to go
- I have discovered that it can help me to avoid delays and problems on the road
- There are several ways to get from my office to my home
- The shortest distance isn't always the best way to go
- Waze can see things that I cannot, and If I trust it and follow it, I won't waste time
- God's GPS – Scriptures, Spirit, and Servants can help you – but only if you follow them
- And if you are going the wrong direction, let them help you to turn around
- Your life is too important to waste
- Your life is precious to God, because in it He is writing a story about His Son
- Let's let Him write the story He wants to
- **Pray!**