

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

Really Bad Sinners?

Luke 13:1-5

I’m reading from Luke chapter 13. This is verses 1-5.

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

Sometimes when tragedy hits with a number of victims, shallow speculation begins about what they must have done to bring upon themselves such a fate. There are “evangelical preachers” in our society who have released to the press their “judgments” claiming they know why the victims were killed.

There seems to be this un-sustained belief that *the worse the disaster, the worse the victims must have been.* "Really bad sinners" just seems to be an impulsive but arrogant and shallow response to tragedy.

Jesus says, "NO." Such impetuous conclusions are not justified. But then notice where he takes this!

Look at your own life! "...unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." Could it be, we need to examine ourselves lest we perish, rather than assuming others have perished because of their sin? Think about it.

-Warren E. Berkley