

TIME TO GET IT RIGHT

LUKE 13:1-9 (KJV)

A SERMON BY:
REV. DR. LEE A. EARL



Sunday, October 20, 2019

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Lee Earl

Sermon: Time To Get It Right

Scripture: Luke 13:1-9



CURRICULUM
GUIDE



Sermon Summary

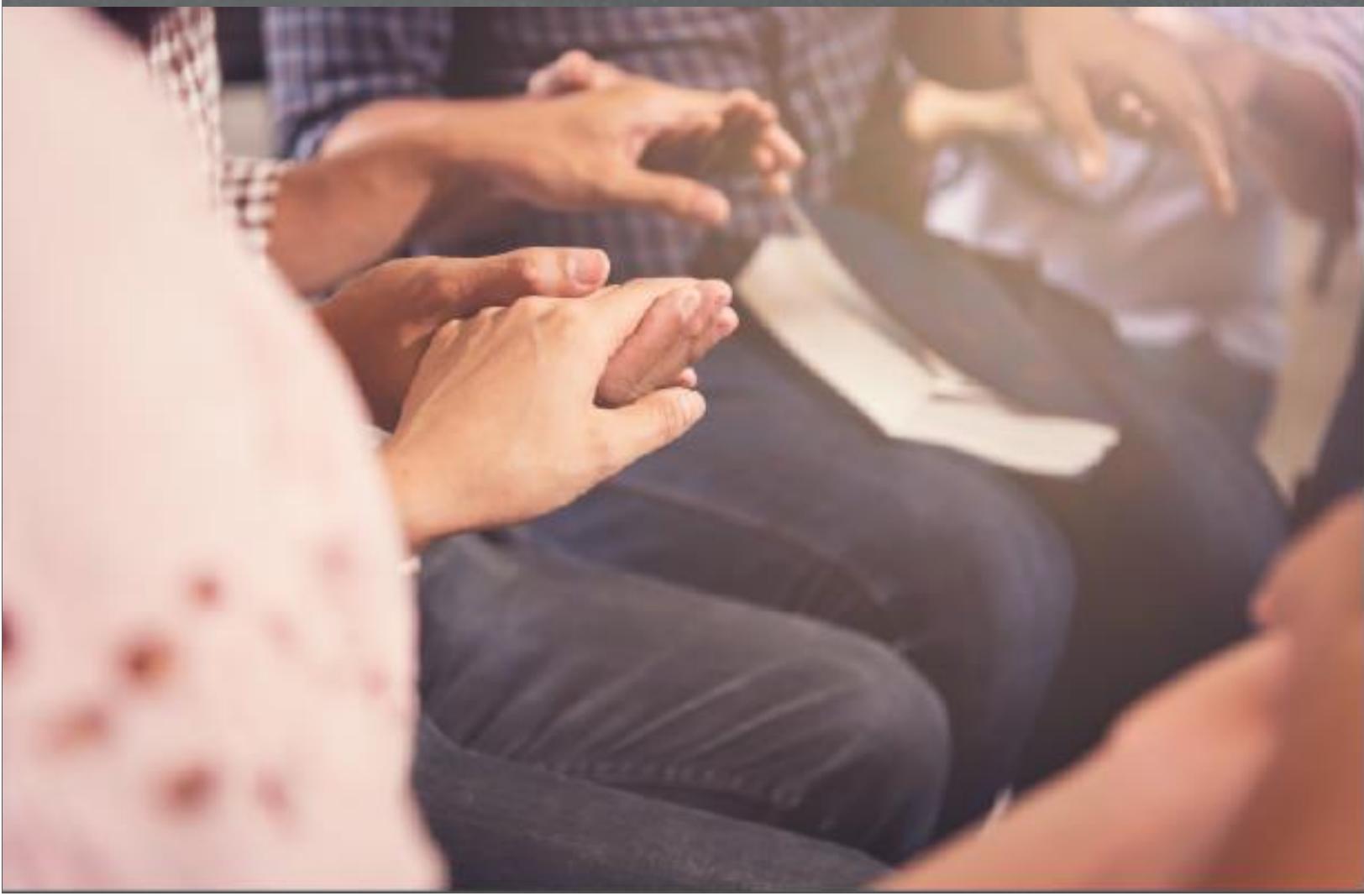
This week's sermon focused on the age old question: why do bad things happen to good people? When faced with the reality of bad experiences, either experienced personally or witnessed in the lives of others, Rev. Dr. Earl exhorts us, through Jesus' words and parables, that we ought to be careful in judging others while neglecting to be mindful of our own lives. Since forbearance is not forgiveness, we ought to seriously consider that God's grace is meant to give us time to get it right.

Notes for Facilitators:

During this 6th week of Village please be sure to save time to have your entire Village complete the mid-season survey. We want to get 100% participation in this survey. Also please note that Village participants have a separate survey from the Village Hosts & Facilitators.

Getting To Know You Questions:

1. Rev. Dr. Earl critiqued the dominant image of Jesus in our society. How has your image of Jesus been shaped from your childhood to now? What did you imagine God was like then and is that the same or different now?
2. Rev. Dr. Earl commented that “we have misinterpreted grace.” Although misfortune hasn’t happened to you, it doesn’t mean that you are better than someone else. You are here because of God’s grace and mercy. What have you come to understand about grace?”



Into The Bible Questions:

1. In Luke 13:1 we see one group of people experience a tragedy and another group of people spared. How can we remember that suffering is not an indication of the quality of one's relationship with God?
2. Jesus asks in Luke 13:2, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?" What have we determined are the worst sins? How have you seen that show up in your Christian experience?

Life Application Questions:

1. Rev. Dr. Earl teaches us not to "confuse forbearance with forgiveness," but to look at forbearance as just time to get it right. In your spiritual life, what is currently in forbearance? What are you needing more time to get right?
2. Rev. Dr. Earl talked about all of us needing time to get it right.
 - a) When have you NOT given someone in your life time to get it right?
 - b) When you HAVE given someone time to get it right?
 - c) What did you learn from those experiences?
3. Rev. Dr. Earl pointed out that sometimes we can act as if God's grace on us has something to do with us. Where in your life have you developed a spiritual ego? Are there some things you have come to feel like you deserve from God because of who you are and what you have done?
4. When the Jews from Jerusalem brought up the sufferings of the Galilean Jews (people different from them), Jesus referenced a similar tragedy in their own neighborhood. What makes us see and judge the experiences of people with different backgrounds before we see the issues in our own neighborhoods and personal lives?



"Can I Push It?"

In the sermon text, we read of two great calamities (the massacre of a group of Galileans in Jerusalem and a tower crushing eighteen in Siloam). Jesus uses the calamities to show that we must not equate tragedy with divine punishment and that bad things can happen to good people.

1. What is your understanding of why God allows bad things to happen to good people?
2. How do you grapple with the bad things that have happened to you or your family?

Spirit Work:

Rev. Dr. Earl instructed us to ask God the question, "what do you think of me?" During your quiet time, take a moment this week to journal how you believe God would answer this question presently in your walk? After you've journaled, take time to thank God for your strengths, and to repent for the areas you still need time to get right.



Activity:

During the call to salvation, Pastor Wesley states, "the only reason we are here today is not because we are better, but because God has given us more time." Reflecting on this statement and your walk with Christ, what will you commit to do with the time that God has given you? Partner with another Village member and share that commitment so that you can prayerfully support one another (through call/text/email) this Village season.

Additional Question for Married Couples Villages:

Luke 13:6-9 highlights a parable teaching about the patience and forbearance of God. How does the reality of God's forbearance and patience with our faults, failures and flaws, inspire patience with these areas in the life of your spouse?

Additional Question for Young Adult Villages:

Rev. Dr. Earl said that “Some of us think that because we’re more successful that God is more pleased with/favors us.” How do you remain faithful when God continues to bless others, but not you? How do you witness to others when this happens?

Additional Questions for Parents’ Villages:

From Luke 13:6-8, a certain man requested that a fig tree in his vineyard be cut down because it was not bearing fruit. The vineyard keeper requested one more year to see if the fig tree would bear fruit. How do these scriptures relate to your current child-rearing style?

Additional Questions for Women Villages:

Put yourselves in the shoes of the Galileans who received judgment from those in Jerusalem, which was 70 miles south of Galilee. Has there been a time where people, who aren't close enough to know you personally, have judged your struggle simply because you aren't like them? What strategies can you share about how you endured the struggle while experiencing unwarranted and false judgment?