

Unless You Repent

Luke 13:1-9 – Pastor Todd Dugard

How can you tell the difference between a casual football (or hockey) fan and a serious one? Can you also determine if someone is taking the command to repent casually or seriously?

Dig In!

In light of Jesus' imminent return, you must embrace...

The universality of death (13:1, 4a) "You're gonna die!"

- What are the spiritual steps we need to take before we die if we want to experience salvation?

The culpability of humanity (13:2, 4b) "Stop ranking each other!"

- How do you finish this sentence: "At least I'm not as bad as _____." Why do we reference other people when someone challenges us about our sin?
- How does guilt affect the way we act toward each other and toward God?
- Many Christians can acknowledge that one sin makes them guilty but they don't feel bad about just one sin. How much sin do you have to engage in before you *feel* convicted? How can Christians regain sensitivity to sin after ruining their moral conscience? (Acts 24:16; Titus 2:11-12; Romans 12:1-2)

The inevitability of judgment (13:6-8, 9b) "We're the fig tree!"

- What fruit has God been looking for in your life? How much longer do you expect he'll accept your lack of fruitfulness in that area?
- What's the warning here for us? Are "Christians" safe from being "cut down" for not bearing fruit?

The necessity of repentance (13:3, 5, 9a) "Don't delay!"

- Describe together what a life of repentance looks like for a person who once followed their anger, or their lust, or their greed, or their pride. Try to avoid cliché answers and give concrete illustrations.
- Have you been baptized as a sign of your repentance from sin and new life in Christ? If yes, are you living the way you committed to? If you're not baptized, what are you waiting for?

Break Out!

Our place in God's vineyard is in jeopardy if we don't bear the fruit of repentance. Discuss and pray about areas of your life that would not please Christ. What are you doing presently to turn that area around? What does Christ want to have grow in the place that was dead – i.e., humility from arrogance, love from hatred, joy from sorrow, control from recklessness.

