

## I. Intro

## A. Happy Resurrection Day!

1. Today we celebrate the triumph of light over dark! – life over death!
2. Our King has risen from the dead – first fruits of our resurrection!
3. To celebrate, we will study Luke 13

## B. Why Luke 13?

1. Not a traditional Easter passage – no record of the death and resurrection
2. However, it points us to the death and resurrection

## C. Let's dive into Luke 13

## II. Text

**A. Luke 13:1-9**

1. Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die – subject of death comes up
  - a) Pilate murdered a group of Galileans
  - b) Jesus and the 12 are also Galileans
    - (1) Did these Galileans die because they were sinful?
    - (2) Will Jesus be spared because His 12 are holy?
2. Jesus answers, "No"
  - a) Galileans and those crushed by the tower died because everyone dies
  - b) Instead of being concerned with their sin, consider your own sin
3. *1st-century people aren't different from 21st-century people*
  - a) *We watch the news. We see ships crash into bridges. We see hurricanes.*
  - b) *We hyper focus on the tragedies and sin in our world*
  - c) *Jesus says – wrong focus, look at your sin – that's a tragedy!*
4. *A day is coming when the king will inspect your life*
  - a) *Like a man inspecting a fig tree – what will he find?*
  - b) *Israel was barren. Are you? If so, you may not have much time.*
  - c) *Israel was given one last chance. How many chances do you have left?*
    - (1) *What a tragedy to live your life thinking – I have more time*
    - (2) *You have the time God has given you – use it wisely*

**B. Luke 13:10-21**

1. Jesus is teaching in a synagogue
  - a) Woman has a disabling spirit – bound up for 18 years
  - b) Jesus heals her, but the leaders are angry because “sabbath”
  - c) Apparently, you can help a tied-up ox, but not a bound-up woman
    - (1) Another example of people looking at the wrong things
2. Jesus wants us focused on the miracle – why?
  - a) *Your life looks like this bound up woman – bent over, crooked for years*
  - b) *Surrounded by religious people who offer no help – only rules*
  - c) *But one Easter, you hear the words of Jesus*
    - (1) *It’s different this time. His words pierce you.*
    - (2) *He says, “turn from your sin and I will heal you”*
    - (3) *You believe, you know this moment changes everything*
      - (a) *Like how a small mustard seed grows into a big tree*
      - (b) *Or, how a little leaven can completely transform a loaf of bread*
    - (4) *This one little moment changes everything*
3. *If you could just focus on the right thing – Jesus*

**C. Luke 13:22-30**

1. Jesus is continuing His journey to Jerusalem
  - a) Someone asks a question – Will those who are saved be few?
2. Why is everyone focused on everyone else?!
  - a) Jesus replies – Don’t worry about them, worry about you!
  - b) Are you going to be saved?! Will you strive to enter the narrow door?!
    - (1) Life isn’t a highway system – it is a banquet
    - (2) Not multiple ways to God – one invitation
    - (3) Invitation won’t last forever – eventually the door will shut
3. *What if you are running out of time? What if the door shuts tomorrow?*
  - a) *Do you want to find yourself outside, banging on the door?*
  - b) *Shouting “I went to church. I heard your teaching.”*

- c) *All you hear in return is – I don't know you*
  - (1) *Because you never took Him seriously. Never believed. Never repented.*
  - (2) *Because your eyes were always on the wrong thing*
  - (3) *Focused on news of the day, the sins of others, or your small social club*
  - (4) *But, you never focused on Jesus in any meaningful way*
- 4. This was the spiritual condition of Israel leading up to the resurrection

#### **D. Luke 13:31-35**

- 1. One final section, marked with the wrong focus
  - a) Pharisees came to Jesus with a warning – Herod is after you!
  - b) Jesus didn't care about political thugs or death – face was set to Calvary
    - (1) Jesus focused on the cross, resurrection, gathering His people like a brood
    - (2) Luke contrasts that picture with the Pharisees – focused on politics and fear

### III. Conclusion

- A. This entire chapter is a study in the danger of looking at the wrong thing!
  - 1. People look to tragedy in the news – People look to see who has the worst sin
  - 2. People look to wants and desires – People look to personal preference
  - 3. People look to fear – People look to political ideologies
  - 4. People look to others for value – People look to addictions to numb the pain
  - 5. People look to consumerism on Easter and Christmas, ignoring the real focus
- B. The danger is:
  - 1. You could spend your whole life focused on one thing
  - 2. And, that one thing could be the wrong thing
  - 3. And, you won't realize it until it is too late
    - a) Too late because the master has come to inspect your fruit – you have none
    - b) Too late because your life is over and the door is shut
    - c) And, no amount of pounding will change your eternal outcome
- C. The plea from Luke 13 is this – don't waste your life looking at the wrong thing
  - 1. Set your face toward Christ in the same way Christ set His face toward Jerusalem
  - 2. Focus on the man of sorrows. Focus on the cross. Focus on the empty grave!