

## What Good is it?

Sunday, October 15, 2023

1 Now on that very occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

Luke 13:1

2 And Jesus responded and said to them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans just because they have suffered this fate? 3 "No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or do you think that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse offenders than all the other people who live in Jerusalem? 5 "No, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Luke 13:2-5

1. It's not just bad people that die - sometimes horrible deaths.
2. Everyone of us will likewise die if we don't repent.

And He began telling this parable: "A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came **looking for fruit** on it and did not find any. "And he said to the vineyard-keeper, 'Look! For three years I have come **looking for fruit** on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! **Why does it even use up the ground?**' "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, leave it alone for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; and **if it bears fruit next year**, fine; but if not, cut it down.'"

Luke 13:6-9

What use is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

James 2:14

If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

In the same way, faith also, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

James 2:15-17

But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

James 2:18

*You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.  
James 2:19*

*But are you willing to acknowledge, you foolish person, that faith without works is  
useless?  
James 2:20*

*Was our father Abraham not justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the  
altar? You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith  
was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God,  
and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called a friend of God. You  
see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. In the same way, was  
Rahab the prostitute not justified by works also when she received the messengers and  
sent them out by another way?  
James 2:21-25*

*For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.  
James 2:26*

*4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "**See to it that no one misleads you.** 5 "For  
many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will mislead many  
people. 6 "And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. **See that you are not  
alarmed,** for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 "For nation will  
rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and  
earthquakes in various places. 8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth  
pains. 9 "Then they will hand you over to tribulation and kill you, and you will be **hated**  
by all nations because of My name. 10 "And at that time **many will fall away,** and they  
will betray one another and hate one another. 11 "And many **false prophets will rise  
up and mislead many people.** 12 "And because lawlessness is increased, **most  
people's love will become cold.** 13 "But the one who **endures to the end** is the one  
who will be saved.  
Matthew 24:4-14*

### **Specifically Jesus tells His followers:**

1. Don't be mislead. (verse 4)
2. Don't be alarmed. (verse 6)
3. Expect hatred. (9)
4. Don't be surprised at the defectors. (10)
5. Don't be deceived. (11)
6. Make Love for others and God your priority. (12)
7. Endure. (13)