

Faith for Community Faith III

Consider **Luke 13:1-9**

News cycles dominant, influence and shape the culture. *Bad news seems to travel fast.*

Culture is the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations. Culture is the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of a racial, religious, or social group. Culture is the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes a company or corporation. *Merriam Webster Dictionary*

Western culture is shaped by rugged individualism, free enterprise, manifest destiny, the right of the individual. The culture of the kingdom of God is righteous, peace and joy. The kingdom of God is the community as God imagines it. The culture of the kingdom is communal, holistic, interconnected and relational.

There is always conflict and tension between competing cultures.

- ⇒ The dominant community culture and the community as God images it.
- ⇒ The dominant community norms and God's standard.
- ⇒ The dominant community narratives and God's narrative.

Mindsets and belief systems are shaped by: environment, life experience, repetitious information and credible people.

I

Luke 13:1-5 teaches us:

Life takes hits **suddenly**, without **warning** and impacts everyone.

- ⇒ Death is not a consequence of one's **wickedness**.

John 9:1 And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.

² And his disciples asked him, saying, **Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?** ³ Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. ⁴ I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

- ⇒ Life is the not reward for our continued **righteousness**.

There is a need to repent: stop what we are doing, change our minds, turn around and live in a different way.

- ⇒ Blaming victims is not our place, however problem solving is.

II

Luke 13:8-9 teaches us:

There is a need to bear fruit now, by His grace.

If we have been **unfruitful**, receive **grace** with a sense of urgency.

John 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit **he taketh away**: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, **he purgeth** it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

To take away is *airo* which means to lift up, elevate and raise.

To purge is *kathairo* which means to cleanse of filth and impurity.

- ⇒ Three years have **passed** so **behave** like we have *one more year*.

III

Luke 13:8-9 the fierce urgency of the Now.

Let's build **communities** now.

Let's build networks now so *it can go well with all*. **Deut 6:3**

Let's do justice together now.

- ⇒ Let's do more this year.

- ⇒ Let's act like we have *one more year*, by His grace.

Nehemiah Action May 6, 2019 6:15pm Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds

Rhema Christian Center, Bishop La Fayette Scales, Sunday April 28, 2019