

# The Fig Tree

(Part 1)

*“<sup>1</sup> Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” <sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.” (Luke 13:1-9)*

People and you might be one of them as they hear from TV or radio bad news like murders, road traffic accidents with serious casualties, natural calamities like earthquake, typhoon, Volcano, floods with many people died and homes damaged with towns and villages devastated, or news of wars, riots or explosions and many people died, they will get certain impression about what is going on. The first thing that will come in their minds that those people who are affected by all these calamities are evil doers and God allowing such things to happen to them as punishment and reattribute to their sins. That is could be the truth, but it is also possible that those who are affected are innocent.

The same had happened at the time of Jesus, the people around the Lord were terrified with what Pilate did when he kill certain people and mix their blood with the blood of their sacrifices that they offered as their worship to God. People they conclude that they faced such a situation because they have done bad things against the Lord. But Jesus corrected them when He told them the following: *“Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”* The Lord reinstates the people who brought to Him such news and made them to think in the right way. Jesus told them don’t think that those Galileans are worse sinner and don’t think about yourself as righteous; the Lord warned them that if they will not repent they too will perish.

Jesus also said to them the following, *“Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”* For the second time Jesus is saying to the people and to us don’t think about yourself better than those people who are affected by calamities and don’t be self-righteous. Don’t boast about yourself because what bad had happened to them it might happen to you as well.

The bad news that we hear is an invitation for us to repent, turn from sin and come back to the Lord. When we hear bad news we should take things seriously; what had happened to the people it might happen to us as well. God is merciful to us; He forgives us our sins and He is also not punishing us as our sins deserve but we should not abuse the grace of God. If

the Lord is not dealing with you according to your short coming that does not mean that God is happy with your life, but the Lord only showing you love in order for you to repent.

Some they boast with the material things that they have and they think that they have all these things because God is happy with them. This is the deception of Satan and things need to be clarified for you. The following are clear understanding form the word of God to avoid falling down in the trap of Devil.

**1- Material blessings are not sign of God’s approval:** Many they think that those who have much material things are blessed by the Lord. That might be true but that does not mean that God is happy with all who have much material things. Sometimes God even allow the wicked to have material blessings but that does not mean He is approving them. The word of God teach us that, *“He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” (Matthew 5:45 b)* The Psalmist said, *“For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” (Psalm 73:3)* Solomon also said, *“There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve.” (Ecclesiastes 8:14)* So what we can see here that wicked can still be prosperous and God allow it. Therefore we conclude that material blessings it will not be a sign for God’s approval for that person who have much of it. And with such set up we can still conclude that poverty is not necessarily a sign of God disapproval.

**2- Spiritual blessings are not sign of God’s approval:** God gives spiritual gifts and enable us to do His work and that for His glory. But that does not mean that we can do wrong and abuse the gifts that God would give in His service. Our sins and disobedience will not be cover up and atoned by our ministry and service unto God. Jesus mentioned that in *Matthew 7:21-23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”*

**3- God’s wrath on the wicked is not the prove that we are righteous people:** If God is not dealing with your sins that do not mean that He is happy with you. And if God is disciplining someone for his sins that does not mean you are righteous. If you will not repent your turn will come soon and the Lord will deal with you. The Lord mercy is delaying His judgment but at any time the Lord may deal with you if you will not repent.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The word of God tells us the following: *“He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.” (Psalm 103:10)* God is calling you to return to Him, to humble down and to repent from your sins. His mercy had withheld His judgment from you. Today! Is the time for you to decide to return to the Lord as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . I renounce them all and commit myself to live my life for you. I dedicate myself to serve you wholeheartedly and to invest all what I have in your service, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*