**Going deeper in Luke 13:1-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

Prior to this Jesus has been talking about judgment day. He has reassured the crowd that God will provide for them and that they can trust His provision, but He has also stressed that judgement day will come. The following passage challenges simplified understandings of the nature of God and His justice and grace.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

1 About the same time there were some people who came up and told him about the Galileans that Pilate had killed while they were at worship and mixed their blood with the blood of the sacrifices on the altar. 2 Jesus answered, “Do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered like this? 3 Not at all! Unless you turn to God you too will perish. 4 And those eighteen in Jerusalem the other day who were killed when the tower of Siloam collapsed and fell on them. Do you think they were worse sinners than all others living in Jerusalem? 5 Not at all! Unless you turn to God you too will perish.” 6 Then he told them this parable, “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came to it expecting fruit, but there wasn’t any. 7 So he said to the gardener in charge of his vineyard, ’For three years I have been coming to this fig tree expecting fruit and I haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’ 8 The gardener said, ‘Sir, let’s give it one more year and I will dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit, fine. But if not, then cut it down.”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How do you think those present felt about the Galileans and their deaths? What does this tell you about Pilate?

2. Rather than speaking to injustice and cruelty of Pilate what does Jesus do? Why?

3. Why is there a fig tree planted in a vineyard? Who does it represent?

4. What view of God do you think those asking about the Galileans had? What does the parable say about the nature of God? What does the fact that another year is given say about the nature of God?

5. What are the similarities and differences between Jesus understanding of God and the questioners?

6. What fruit do you think God expects from you in the next year?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord for His patience and mercy.

\*Ask Him to empower you to show that same patience and mercy with those you will meet today.

\*Ask the Lord to show you what fruit He wants to see in your life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

It is easy to think we have all the time in the world to get around to God and the life He has in store for each of us. That is false. Will you turn to God and live fully for Him and His will right now?