

Episode 57

"Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered?"
- Luke 13:2

God's word feeds us, fights for us, and bears fruit in our lives, but why does it so often frighten us too?

It is human nature to fixate on our failings, adding ourselves to the Galilean group cowering in condemnation, oblivious to the finished work of the cross. Yet, scripture declares that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus because condemnation is the language of sin, not the language of our Saviour.

Take another look at Jesus' words. He begins with a call to repentance, not a call to fix themselves and try harder. To emphasize this point he tells the parable of the fig tree because, as the gardener, he always steps in to give special attention to those who are struggling, not chop us down. Jesus' healing on the Sabbath is my favourite example of this since the religious Pharisees didn't actually have healing to offer, only rules to abide by in her crippled state. Sound familiar? So much of our lives are rules we are trying to abide by in our crippled and condemned state. But when Jesus saw her, he called her to himself and said, "Woman, you are free of your disability."

The parable of the narrow door is also completely void of doing. Rather, Jesus calls them out for not being known by him. Interestingly, when Adam and Eve sin and hide themselves from God, he didn't shout 'What have you done?!' but called out "where are you?" No surprise then, that Jesus laments over the city that would soon crucify him saying how he longs to gather them to himself, but they wouldn't let him.

We read these words, retweet them or even preach them to others, but when we need them after blowing it completely, we somehow can't seem to apply them to ourselves. "Not me", we say, languishing under the crippling condemnation we so easily believe. Because, after all, we are those Galileans, worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee, and so we won't let Jesus draw us to himself, no matter how gently he calls.

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