

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**

"Turn Around"

Doug Kempton

**Key Passages: Luke 13:1-9, Matthew 5:14-15**

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Now would also be a great time to allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

**Main Ideas**

- We always have to look at scripture in context.
- The end of chapter 12 tells us that Jesus is in a sense asking, "Are you in or out?"
- At the beginning of chapter 13, Jesus uses some tragic events to challenge people's world view.
- The world view:
  - Karma
  - God is sort of like Santa Claus (keeping a list of who has been good and who has been bad)
  - When something bad happens to you, it's because something wrong or bad that you did.
- But Jesus wants to break this world view.
- v3 & v5: Unless you repent, you will perish.
- What does it mean to repent?
  - Literally to change your mind...but it's bigger than that
  - It's a physical and spiritual change. A radical change of our whole being that is only possible through Jesus
  - It's clear that all of us are guilty and sinful. (Jesus says "you will ALL likewise perish.")
  - We sometimes think too highly of ourselves and judge only the sins and guilt of others.
- Perish OR repent are the two options.
- There is an invitation in this. The call to repent is not punitive or in anger, but Jesus invites us to repent because He loves us. (see John 3:16)
- We are called to a lifestyle of repentance—a consistent striving to change our mind and whole life to be more like Jesus.
- This passage should motivate us to the lost world:
  - Knowing that everyone will repent or perish, we are to be witnesses.
  - But how are we to share the gospel in a world that is growing more and more hostile to the gospel?
  - Matthew 5:14-16
  - LOVE in action is how we are to be witnesses.
  - How we behave (the good works that we do, the justice we pursue, the service we provide) becomes our witness.

**Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)**

1. At the end of Luke 12, Jesus is asking people to make a decision about who he is and what it means to follow Him. Has God lead you to any decisions about who He is or what it means to follow Him over the past couple of weeks?
2. When was a time you were tempted to think of God in terms of karma or as a kind of Santa Claus? How has God taught you and grown you in this area?
3. How are you doing at living, as Doug said, a "lifestyle or repentance?"
4. When was a time you realized you were thinking too highly of yourself? What did God show you or teach you as a result of that realization?
5. How does it motivate you knowing eternity waits for us all and everyone will either repent or perish?
6. How is your heart with respect to a world that is lost?
7. How does God want to grow you as a witness through your behavior and your love in action?
8. What is God inviting you specifically to in this passage?