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| **Interpreting the News of the Day**  *Promise: the gift of repentant faith saves us from perishing eternally* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Ezekiel 33:7-20; Psalm 85; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9 (Third Sunday in Lent), 3/23/25)  *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.* – Ro 1:16  **Lead In –** Our Lord Jesus had been addressing a crowd either in, or nearby, Jerusalem. They were likely mostly Judean Jews. And as He was speaking to them, some in the gathering told Jesus about a heinous act committed by Pontius Pilate, the Roman appointed Governor over Judea. The atrocity involved a slaughter of some Galilean Jews and the mingling of their blood with the blood of their religious sacrifices. This was related to Jesus no doubt because of what Jesus had just said a few verses earlier… (cf. 12:54-56)… And now they were testing Jesus’ ability to interpret the event…   1. **What Do We Know About This Massacre?** 2. **Why Do Bad Things Happen to (Good?) People?**    1. We usually can’t shake the sense of “just desert” …    2. Jesus does not say they were not sinners! …    3. We need to remind ourselves why we die… 3. **Why Does Jesus Throw In Another Tragic Incident?**    1. Lots of ways we meet death, even untimely ones…    2. There are two deaths we need to think about … 4. **Unless You Repent You Will All Likewise Perish**    1. Repentance in its wider and narrower sense…    2. Repentance is a gift and work of the Holy Spirit…    3. True repentance bears fruit and avoids the axe…   **Final Word –** There are plenty of interpretations offered by people of faith of the events that make the news in our day. This is true of both natural disasters as well as tragedies caused by humans. The interpretations often go in one of two directions. Either they involve pinning down a timetable for the arrival of Armageddon and our Lord’s Return, or they seek to assign blame for the misfortune. Even secular people play this game, as in “our carbon footprint” is causing all these hurricanes and wildfires.” But our Lord would have us each recognize our complicity in what is wrong with the world, and accordingly by God’s grace to repent of our sins and to believe in the Gospel, lest we perish eternally. The good news is: Christ died for your sins!  **Lk 12:54-56** He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?  **Ro 3:10-12** None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”  **Ro 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  **Ge 3:19** [By sweat you shall labor] till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  **Ge 3:24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life. | **Luke 13:1-9 ESV**  *Repent or Perish*  1There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”  6And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’ 8And he answered him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. 9Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”  **Ro 8:21** the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.  **He 9:27-28** And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.  **Mk 1:15** [And Jesus began saying}, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”  **Ac 2:38** And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”  **Jn 16:8-10** [Jesus said to his disciples] And when [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.  **1Co 2:12** Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.  **Lk 3:9** Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  **Jn 15:1-2a** I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away.  **Jn 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.  **Jn 15:6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. |