

The Chance of a Lifetime  
David Rhodes- December 31, 2023

Luke 13:1-9

“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 growing 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.’”

**Disasters are a reminder that life is precious and precarious.**

**We have all had our chances**

- Past failure
- Past success

**We have a current chance**

- Will we pursue our desires or our destiny?
- Will we drift with “fate” or live by faith?
- Will we go to church or be the church?

**We will have a final chance**

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