

Life Group Questions

March 4

Get-to-Know-Me Questions:

- What is the most annoying habit that other people have?

Into-the-Bible Questions:

Read through Philippians 4:10-20

- In verse 12, Paul says that he has “learned the secret of living in every situation” (NLT). What’s his secret?

- Are you content with where you life is? If things never got any better than they are right now, would that be okay with you? Why or why not?

- Would your life be more accurately described as *giving* or *taking*? Why?

- The Philippians didn’t just share in Paul’s ministry at a spiritual level. They also shared at a practical level. He informs them that their giving will be toward their own “credit” (v. 17). What does he mean by this?

Let's Go Deeper:

Read through Luke 13:1-9

- The incidents of Pilate “mingling” blood (apparently he had some people killed while they were offering sacrifices) and the fallen Siloam tower are not recorded anywhere else in scripture, so we can't be sure of what exactly happened. But it was a popular opinion at the time that tragedies and physical ailments were due to personal sin (think about how Job's friends reacted when they came to “comfort” him or the disciples' question in John 9:1-2). So what the people are essentially asking Jesus is “Did these people do something to deserve what they got?” Have you ever thought of tough times or tragedy in your life as God punishing you? Explain your answer.

- Jesus dispels the notion that these people received extraordinary consequences because they were extraordinary sinners. As a matter of fact, in John 9, Jesus says the reason the man was born blind was so that, “the works of God would be displayed in him” (John 9:3). If we were to truly view our misfortunes as opportunities for God to work through us, how would it change the way we face our struggles? How do we get to a point where we view misfortune as godly opportunity?

- Jesus used the crowd's questions in verses 1-5 and the parable he told in verses 6-9 as a warning that the time to repent before experiencing God's judgment was limited. Do you ever live as though there are no consequences for your sin? Explain your answer.

- In the parable of this fruitless fig tree, we see a gardener unwilling to give up on the possibility that the tree could turn things around. He is even willing to put in some extra work so that the tree has every opportunity to start producing fruit. I think it's pretty clear that we are the tree and Jesus is the gardener, but is there anyone in your life that you have given up on as a lost cause? Maybe God is whispering, “Let's give them one more chance.”