

**Pre-Sermon:** This is to help you prepare for hearing from God's Word.

- Prayerfully read Luke 13:10-17
- What does this passage tell you about Jesus?

**Sermon Questions:** This will help you evaluate how well you were listening.

- When you heard Jesus say unless you repent, you will perish in verses 1-9 how did it impact you?
- The preacher said that by the end of this message he wanted Jesus' call to repent to sound like what to you?
- Who was Jesus specifically telling to repent and how does knowing that remind us of the graciousness of this command?
- What has happened before Jesus commanded them to repent that illustrates how gracious God is in giving them this opportunity?
- What was going to happen if they didn't repent? In what way does that demonstrate the kindness of God in calling them to repentance?
- Now we are in our text. What does this passage say about who Jesus is? How does looking at who Jesus is prove that the call to repent is really an act of grace?
- What is Jesus calling on them to repent of? How does this synagogue ruler illustrate the kind of religious activity Jesus was urging them to give up? How does this story show just how different what Jesus is coming to do really is?

**Sermon Outline:** A sermon is much more than an outline, but perhaps the outline will help you follow the sermon.

We may hear Jesus say repent and think he's being hard. But if you will be patient with me, I think you will see how Jesus' calling these people to repent is very, very gracious. This passage makes the difference between Jesus and what He's bringing and the way humans typically do religion clear. It's really important you understand as we talk about Jesus' call to repentance that you understand this is something very different than just someone standing up and saying you need to be better. What's happening here in this passage should most definitely be a powerful proof to you of that. This is so gracious. Every single part of this.

1. If we start with **who Jesus is talking to here** we will see the call to repent is incredibly kind.
2. Think specifically about **when Jesus is calling these people to repent** and you will see this is all grace.
3. And then of course there is **why Jesus is telling them to repent.**
4. The graciousness of this command becomes clear when you think about **who is standing there telling them to repent.**
5. Especially when you remember **what he is commanding them to repent of.**

**Synopsis:** This is a short summary to help you reflect on the message.

Last week we talked a lot about the subject of repentance. That may have felt a little intense. Maybe you even have a little objection. "You talked so much about repentance, I didn't hear a lot about grace." It's a good question. I wanted you to feel the urgency of repentance. But I also want you to feel the joy of repentance. This is something good. This is something you want to do. This is kind of God to give you the opportunity to repent.

Eventually I am going to show you that by looking at verses 10-17. If you can be patient with me, I think you'll see how Jesus calling these people to repent is very, very gracious. It's just going to take us a little while to get there. But, Jesus' call to repent should really sound like good news by the time we are done.

If we start first with **WHO** Jesus is talking to here, I think we see this call to repent is so incredibly gracious. In the gospel of Luke, he is almost always talking to Jews. These are people who had literally thousands of years of preparation for this moment. When Jesus calls them to repent this is not the first time they heard this. There is a lot of Old Testament background to that statement which should have made the call to repent really exciting to them. In the prophets, Israel repents, lots of good things happen. Repentance was going to be the beginning of a glorious future for them. And yet a lack of repentance was serious, especially when you think more specifically about **WHEN** Jesus is calling on these people to repent. This isn't toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry. This is toward the end. The fact that Jesus would not just judge them immediately, but preach all these sermons and do all these signs and call them to repent before He brings judgment, is like the definition of being gracious. And then of course, there's **WHY** Jesus calls them to repent. When Jesus says unless you repent, you will likewise perish, He's speaking reality. That's what is going to happen, and God doesn't have to tell anyone that. He could just watch and not say anything. He's under no obligation to give us all this revelation. Just being called to repent is grace.

You see how much grace when you think about **WHO** is standing there calling on them to repent. This is not just another human teacher telling you to clean yourself up so you can get right with God. This is Jesus. And who is Jesus? God! God became man to deal with the problem our sin caused. He came to save and He offers this salvation to anyone who comes to Him in faith. He desires all kinds of people to experience this glorious amazing future He has planned. But of course part of it being a glorious future, requires Him to judge evil. So you know what you need to do? Your job is not to fix the problem yourself. You need to believe that Jesus is able to do what God promised, stop clinging to whatever you are clinging to instead of Him, and repent, so that you don't face the judgment you deserve for your sin and are able to enjoy God's grace forever. When you look at who is calling you to repent, how can you hear it as something hard?

Especially when you think about **WHAT** He was calling on these people to repent of. He wants them to give up hypocritical religion. Telling someone to repent of that is gracious, because that kind of religious activity is not good for you. If you try to be religious without believing these great promises and trusting that Jesus is who God says He is, you are going to take the Bible and religious activity and make it tiring and joyless. Even worse, you will miss what the whole Bible is all about. The Bible is not just a list of rules that we are supposed to keep in order to look on the outside and find ways to get what we want in this world for ourselves right now. God is providing an incredible epic eternal salvation through Jesus where He fulfills absolutely every promise He ever made. He offers this salvation to anyone who will believe His promise and come to Him. It doesn't matter who you are, what you've done, where you come from, God sent His Son into the world to provide forgiveness, to provide cleansing, to overcome the devil, to make it possible for people to live with Him in His presence forever. But, if you are going to enjoy that salvation however, you need to come to Jesus, trust in Jesus. trust in Jesus, you've got to stop trusting in yourself. To live for what God's going to provide when Jesus returns, you have to stop living for what you can get for yourself right now. If Jesus is going to save you, you can't act as if you are your own Savior. If Jesus really is God's great promised king, you aren't the final authority anymore. When Jesus calls on you to repent, He's not saying he'll only give this salvation to people who prove themselves first. No. Give up trusting in yourselves. Give up living for now. Believe God's as good as He says He is and that He is going to keep all His promises through Jesus. That's a gracious call. But it's also urgent because He is keeping His promises through Jesus. These religious people who wouldn't repent couldn't stop Him from doing what He set out to do. The only thing that happened as a result of their hard hearts was that they didn't enjoy it. I don't want that for any of you. When God calls you to repent, hear it for what it is, it's God showing you undeserved kindness.

**Application Questions:** We can't just read these passages, study them. It's vital you respond.

- What stood out to you about repentance from this sermon?
- What amazed you about Jesus from this passage?
- Are there any ways this message helped you appreciate the glorious good news of the gospel and what God is doing through Jesus more?