

year before judgment came. He said "I'll dig around it and fertilize it, but please give it another chance." The manager pleaded to the owner for one more year and the owner allowed it.

You are the manager of a fig tree and that fig tree is your life. God, the master of the vineyard is watching your life and looking for fruit. He has come frequently and gone away disappointed. Are you wasting the soil you stand in? Will you plead with the master of the vineyard and ask for another opportunity? Will you dig and fertilize your life, by once and for all laying aside your lifelong pursuit of your own selfish desires and begin living for the master seeking to bear His fruit? The fact that you and I still live means that God is giving us a window of opportunity where we can respond. You and I cannot waste the soil we stand in, we have one more year to bear fruit.

How do you begin to bear fruit?

REPENT OF YOUR SIN • "Produce **fruit** in keeping with repentance." (Matthew 3:8, NIV).

RELY ON CHRIST • "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much **fruit**; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5, NIV).

RESPOND IN OBEDIENCE • "live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing **fruit** in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, (Colossians 1:10, NIV)

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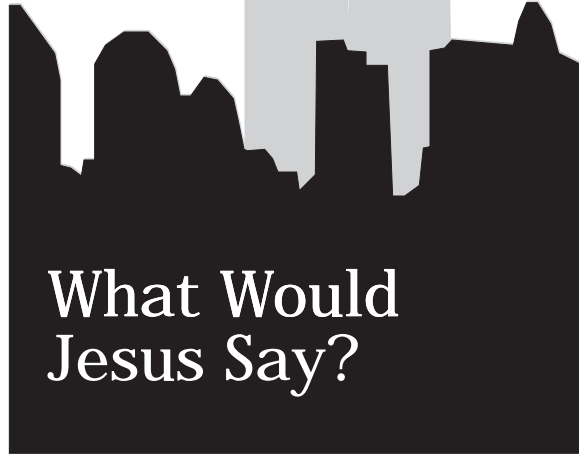
After speaking to this issue in Luke 13, Jesus tells a parable about a tree that the owner of a vineyard had planted expecting fruit and he came back every year for three years and found no fruit. He told the manager of the vineyard to cut it down, it was wasting the soil it stood in. The manager of the vineyard pleaded for one more

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig-tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. 7 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?' 8 "Sir, let me leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig round it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down." (Luke 13:6-9, NIV).

Perplexing isn't it? Jesus does not respond as we expect. We wanted comfort, He makes us uncomfortable by asking us to repent. We want Him to relieve our broken hearts, He is asking us to examine our hearts and do something about them. We wanted answers, He raises questions. We wanted justice against the guilty he brings up our own guilt. We want him to change the world, He is asking us to change.

more important, why didn't I die and what will I do about it? Will my life be any different?

the World Trade Center Disaster

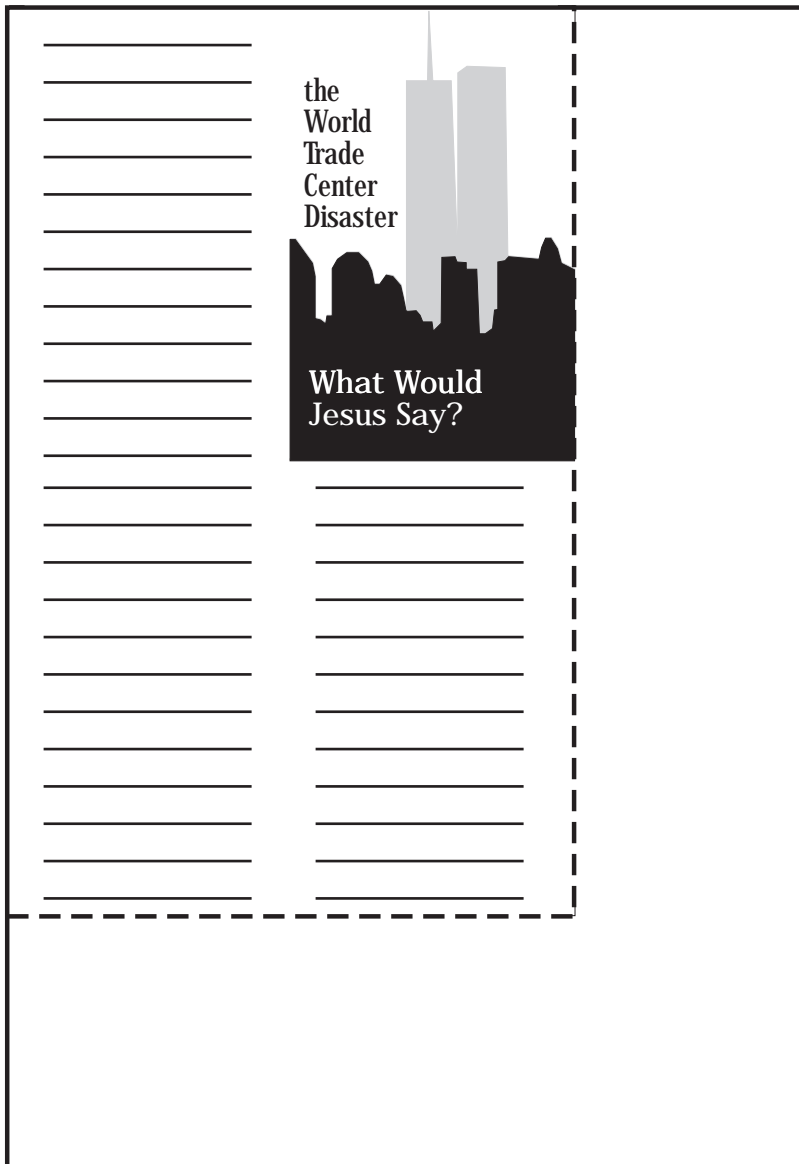


Jesus words are these "...unless you repent you will all likewise perish." Many had come to Jesus asking about judgment on the perpetrators of a crime, or help for the victims of the crime but curiously He does not address these issues. It does not seem them important, but He does not want us to avoid the central question and this is it, "What about you?" It is not why did they die and what should we do about it but even

I Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. 4 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? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." (Luke 13:1-5, NIV).

In the midst of the tragedy of the bombings of the World Trade Center, do you wonder what Jesus might say in response to these events? In Luke 13:1-9, a situation occurs where some men come to Jesus to seek His counsel about a crime a foreign force (Pilate/the Romans) had committed against their people (the Galileans). Incredibly Jesus brings up the falling of a tower, the loss of life and our appropriate response.

Instructions:



1. Cut along dotted lines.

2. Fold in half length-wise.



3. Fold in half again.



4. Final

