

GOSPEL PEARLS

An irrevocable sentence

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Some people told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

He said to them in reply,

“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent,
you will all perish as they did!

Or those eighteen people who were killed
when the tower at Siloam fell on them—
do you think they were more guilty
than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem?

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent,
you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard,
and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,

he said to the gardener,

‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree
but have found none.

So cut it down.

Why should it exhaust the soil?

He said to him in reply,

‘Sir, leave it for this year also,

and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;

it may bear fruit in the future.

If not you can cut it down.”

(Lk 13:1-9)