

Luke 13:1-9

“Rescuing Those In Need”

June 19, 2016

Today we remember those who are there for us in times of stress. This is Father’s Day so we remember our fathers who have been known to rescue us once in a while. Likewise we remember those who fight for us beyond the borders of our country so that we can preserve our country. I speak of the army, the navy, the marines, the air force, and the coast guard. Likewise we remember those who rescue us within the borders of our country. I speak of the emergency workers paid and unpaid. I speak of those who are the police, the fire, and the ambulance personal. Yes, I speak of the elected and non-elected personal who run our nation for us. They are all a blessing for us. We remember them this day with thankful hearts.

Why do we need those among us to be there in times of stress? Our scripture readings have reminded me of the sin of Adam and Eve. They were cast out of the Garden of Eden and placed into this imperfect world. We live in a world where evil exists and is active in making life miserable for us all. We live in a world where there are natural and manmade disasters that make life miserable for us all. Likewise we must confess that we are imperfect people that make life miserable for ourselves and those around us. In addition our Epistle lesson remind us that

God also disciplines us and the change He encourages can make life miserable for a while.

Sadly we often blame God for the sometimes miserable life that we live when it is the sin of Adam and Eve that brings evil into our lives and the lives of those around us. Remember as Christians, Christ paid for our sins on the Cross at Calvary. God disciplines us to encourage us to become better followers of Him. God does not punish us because Christ already paid for our sins on the Cross at Calvary. Therefore we should not look to God when things go bad, but look to ourselves, our world, and the prince of this world the devil. Jesus tells us not to condemn those who died when the Romans killed them at the place where they worshiped. Instead we are all to repent and recommit to our Savior. Likewise Job is an example of God's discipline. Job was not being punished but he was being disciplined when God allowed the devil to test him. Job was called to repent when he lost confidence in God's love for Him. Yes, God loves us when even when things are at their worst.

In 1 John 4 we are told that when we love sacrificially, we are expressing the sacrificial love in our Savior Jesus Christ. For our God is the source of sacrificial love. Therefore those who put their lives on the line outside the borders of our country and within our country only reflect the sacrificial love found in our God. As we learn, God has written that sacrificial love in our hearts. Our sinfulness is a

reflection of our losing sight of God's sacrificial love. Our sinfulness is a reflection of the confusion of our not understanding the meaning of God's sacrificial love.

In our world, the politically correct tells us that we don't love someone if we cannot accept their sin and call it right for them to do. Yes, they are doing wrong in the eyes of our God. However our God asks us to see things like our emergency personal. When a fire person goes to a house, they do not ask if this person is worthy of giving their life to save them or save their property. The fire person risks their life to do what they can to help. This is God's sacrificial love at work in them. In our relationship with all people we are not to ask if they are worthy of our sacrificial love, we give our sacrificial love because our God has placed that in our hearts. Of course we have to fight the urge to be selfish and self-centered because the original sin has corrupted our souls.