

Luke 13:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

Analysis

This verse introduces a tragic incident where Pilate had Galilean worshipers killed during their sacrifices, mingling their blood with the temple offerings. The people reporting this to Jesus likely expected Him to condemn Pilate's brutality and affirm these victims as martyrs. However, Jesus uses this tragedy to teach about universal human sinfulness and the urgent need for repentance. The incident reveals Pilate's characteristic cruelty (later displayed at Christ's trial) and the political tensions between Rome and Jewish religious practice. Jesus refuses to engage in political commentary, instead redirecting to eternal spiritual realities—all people face divine judgment unless they repent.

Historical Context

Pontius Pilate served as Roman prefect of Judea (AD 26-36) and was known for insensitivity to Jewish customs and brutal suppression of disturbances. Josephus records similar incidents of Pilate's violence. This particular event, otherwise unrecorded in history, involved Galileans (from Jesus' home region) who had traveled to Jerusalem for temple worship. That Pilate would murder people during sacrificial worship demonstrates his contempt for Jewish religion. The incident would have inflamed Jewish resentment of Roman occupation and raised questions about why God would allow such sacrilege.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' response to this tragedy challenge contemporary tendencies to view suffering as divine punishment for specific sins?
2. In what ways does Jesus redirect political outrage toward personal spiritual examination?
3. How does this passage teach that all people equally deserve judgment apart from repentance?

Interlinear Text

Παρῆσαν	δέ	τινες	ἐν	αὐτῶν	τῷ	καιρῷ
There were present	G1161	some	at	him	G3588	G2540
G3918		G5100	G1722	G846		
ἀπαγγέλλοντες	αὐτῶν	περὶ	τῶν	Γαλιλαίων	ῷν	τὸ
that told	him	of	G3588	the Galileans	whose	G3588
G518	G846	G4012		G1057	G3739	
αἷμα	Πιλᾶτος	ἔμιξεν	μετὰ	τῶν	θυσιῶν	αὐτῶν
blood	Pilate	had mingled	with	G3588	sacrifices	him
G129	G4091	G3396	G3326		G2378	G846