

# 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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