

On August 9, 2009 the US did what it does best. It took an idea from the British who took the idea from Japan.

That is the American Broadcasting Company debuted a show known as Shark Tank.

If you don't know people come on the show and pitch product ideas to the "Sharks."

They are a panel of successful business people like Marc Cuban, Lori Greiner, and some others. If the shark like the product they offer a deal with the people.

It's not a show I seek out but I don't pass it up when it's on. I would say am a fan of the show. I don't understand a lot about the financial side of business. I should honestly be in the 8 money milestone class.

Even though the show idea was stolen I think it fits the US the best. The good ole American dream is on display. Usually every product pitch has to have a story of overcoming some obstacle, then wealthy people argue over who is better.

But the show gets me with the crazy products that people think that you either never knew you needed before or products you know will just end up in a land fill.

Now, I don't understand a lot about the financial side of business. I should honestly be in the 8 money milestone class, but when they start counter offering each other and it gets intense I am in. I at least understand the basics of a deal.

Some products from the show are successful and some products they invest in are major flops.

Its shocking what they will invest in sometimes and what they wont.

They were willing to invest in a towel with a hole in it but they passed up on the Ring doorbell.

I know there's a lot more that goes into why or why not they invest. Its not just the product. Sometimes its the agreement on the right amount of equity and what not.

Sometimes its just investing in the person.

Today, we are back in our series in the **book of Luke**.

And we are going to look at a passage of scripture where Jesus lays out for us our offer and why we can't pass it up.

The title of the message today is: **God's Investment: Our Only Offer of Hope**

We will be in Luke 13 today looking at verses 1 - 9. If you don't have a Bible and you would like one we have some in the back of the sanctuary and it is a free gift to you, so feel free to pick one up.

Luke 13. 1 - 9

1 At that time, some people came and reported to him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** And he responded to them, “Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well. **4** Or those eighteen that the tower in Siloam fell on and killed—do you think they were more sinful than all the other people who live in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.”

6 And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** He told the vineyard worker, ‘Listen, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it even waste the soil?’

8 “But he replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. **9** Perhaps it will produce fruit next year, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

First Point: We've got one offer and it's repentance.

While Jesus is teaching to a crowd and in a lull some people report to him about Pilate having some Galileans killed.

Like when your mom hits you mid conversation with a story she saw on Facebook about something that happened 5 states over to people you don't know or ever will know. “Did you hear what happened to those people in Idaho?”

Pilate had these men killed while they were offering sacrifices in the Temple. Likely they were anti-Roman zealots and Pilate was trying to prove a point.

The people are coming to Jesus wanting to know his take on this injustice. What caused this? These people were worshipping God. How could this happen? What do you have to say about this maniac Pilate?

Jesus responds with

2“Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.**4** Or those eighteen that the tower in Siloam fell on and killed—do you think they were more sinful than all the other people who live in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as well.”

I'm sure these people were confused by this response from Jesus. It's like when I ask my 2 year old son what he wants for lunch and then he proceeds to sing a song from Frozen only to stop and talk about a train he saw. Are we talking about the same thing?

These people are coming to Jesus confused “Jesus - these Galileans were doing the right thing! Worshipping God! What hope is there for any of us if even the church goers die unjustly! And Pilate is a maniac! How can God let him get away with this!”

These people are operating under a belief that if you die unjustly then it is because of some specific sin you've committed, so they were having trouble understanding why this happened.

So Jesus flips it. “Oh if righteous people don't die unjustly- then, Do you think that these Galileans were more sinful than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things?”

They were missing the point and were stuck in trying to understand who's at fault here.

Jesus challenges their train of thought by bringing up another tragic event of a tower falling on people.

A tragic incident of the tower of Siloam was a random accident. The 18 people who died weren't doing anything right or wrong. . They were just chillin eating lunch under a tower.

Jesus asked, Were these 18 more sinful than all the other people in Jerusalem?

Jesus just flat, kind of crassly, tells them “Pilate, the Galileans, the people sitting under that tower- they all died for the same reason- sin. And you’ll die because of it too.

Jesus is stressing to them that everyone is a sinner not just those who the Romans are punishing or those committing acts of injustice.

It's not that Jesus is saying they all died as a direct result of a specific sin- he's making the opposite point. We all die as a result of any and all sin.

A truth for all humanity regardless of circumstance is that All have sinned.

Romans 3.23

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

The great equalizer of humanity. Regardless of your gender, social class, location, etc. Everybody sins.

The truth is everyone of us is a sinner. No one is living guilt free.

Because everyone is a sinner, everyone is going to die.

Romans 5.12

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.

Death entered the world when sin did. It was not part of God's original design and that is why it feels unnatural to us, and often we want explanations to death like these people who are approaching Jesus.

Jesus tells them all have sinned and all will die, and it could be at any time.

It doesn't matter if you are currently acting righteous or not. You could have rebelled against the government or just ate lunch next to a tower. It doesn't matter because we are all on the clock. There isn't a rhyme or reason as to when someone will die.

The conditions for all of humanity is: All have sinned, all will die and that could happen at any time.

That's the truth for all of us here. We are all sinners and because of that we are all going to die.

That is the truth for you. You are a sinner and because of that you are going to die and it could happen at any time.

There's no amount of volunteering and spiritual disciplines we can do to prolong the inevitable for us.

Thankfully that's not the end of the story.

In response to this Jesus tells us to REPENT

When we come before God we are broken sinners. We don't have any fancy pitch as to why He should partner with us, but God gives us the offer to repent.

That's our offer for our terrible pitch. Repent.

Repent means to have a change of mind towards something. To make a 180 degree turn away from where you are going.

You may think that is something that is only applied to when we sin. When we do bad behavior like steal, cheat, lie, lust, etc.

In 1517 Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. He was stating propositions to debate the Catholic church. This sparked the Protestant Reformation.

He did it on Halloween so imagine that as a couples Halloween costume. One person is Luther and the other could be the door.

The first theses said, **“When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said “Repent,”**

He intended that the entire life of the believer should be repentance.”

In order to understand why all of life should be repentance you need to understand what sin really is.

In both Greek and Hebrew the word used for sin means, “to miss the mark.” There was a target and you didn't hit it. There was a standard and you didn't measure up to it.

But to understand sin holistically, sin is not just what we do. Yes, we commit sins but they are really the symptoms of a larger issue.

Sin is really a disorder of the human heart. We are created by God and He has designed us to be dependent on Him and for Him to be the focal point of our heart. What our disorder of sin does is put ourselves in place of God.

Life becomes about us and what we want. We try to take control, but we weren't designed to be independent of God so sin is corrupting the whole system.

We need to repent from our heart posture that holds ourselves above everything. Life is about me being happy and comfortable; free to do what I want.

A life of constant repentance is like stretching to correct a bad heart posture.

Everyone struggles with developing bad posture. I have to remind myself all the time to sit up and activate my core. I should stretch every night to correct my bad posture throughout the day from sitting and looking at screens.

A life of repentance is correcting the posture of the heart that has been bent towards elevating self and bringing back to elevating God.

A difficulty we have with repentance is deep down we really don't believe we are that bad. Especially when life is good and we haven't had any towers fall on us.

When life is good we have a tendency to take credit for it. We say things like "I must be doing something right."

We can be blind to our need for repentance, and in order to repent we have to see our need for it.

Usually for us to see that we are lacking we need to see someone flourishing.

Ask any good marketer and they'll tell you it's the key to selling products. Your life could be better but you don't have the George Foreman grill, the ped egg, or the snuggie.

The disorder of sin can only hide for so long until we begin to see the symptoms. How living for yourself never leaves you happy, only chasing more. You're never satisfied and secular psychology's fix is basically just lowering your standards of yourself.

Like with bad posture of your body. We don't notice we are slouching until we either begin to hurt or we see someone standing up straight.

Repentance is turning from elevating ourselves. Its admitting the truth that the only reason I have any good in my life is the grace of God because I deserve to have a tower fall on me.

All sin. All die. At any time. And God gives us the life changing offer of repentance.

Point 2: God is patiently investing in your flourishing.

In Shark Tank the sharks don't just throw offers of money at people. Its a deal they make. They are expected to do something for the business and they are going to make sure that the offer profits them overall.

Jesus gives them the unsettling truth of the state of humanity and its offer of hope, but then he shares with them what God's side of this offer is.

Luke 13.6 - 9

6 And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** He told the vineyard worker, ‘Listen, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it even waste the soil?’

8 “But he replied to him, ‘Sir, leave it this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. **9** Perhaps it will produce fruit next year, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

This tree has been given plenty of time to produce fruit but has given the man nothing. The man says it's basically wasting soil and it's time to get rid of it.

I envision the Netflix show Tidying Up with Marie Kondo and her saying if it does not spark joy throw it out.

The Gardener steps in and asks to keep working with the tree and try to fertilize it. Which is to bring in outside nutrients the tree needs but it isn't producing itself.

The Gardener wants to put extra work into the tree, so it will produce fruit.

God looks at us, a tree producing no fruit, and says let's be patient and invest more time and effort into this tree before we are done with it.

None of the sharks would make that investment. They would say this fish is dead in the water, and I'm not taking any major personal risk to save it.

The tree has shown no promise. Who would invest more into it?

A God who loves the tree. Not a God that needs anything from the tree, but simply and powerfully loves the tree.

God is patiently working to break up the soil in your life and put in fresh new soil that can provide what you cannot find within yourself. Because he loves you and desires to have your heart back.

He was willing to give his only son dying on a cross in your place to get your heart back and to be with you, and he's working to reveal that to you.

He's working to win more and more of your heart back to him.

Story of God breaking up soil and putting in new in my life.

God breaking up that soil and fertilizing it is him revealing his love to you. Through others. Through art. Through pain. Through the Bible. Through worship.

Imagine that fig tree standing there with no fruit on its branches. Next to it a gardener, digging around the tree in the hot sun, sweating, working hard.

How crazy would it be for that fig tree to pick up its roots and place them outside of the fresh fertilized soil that the garden put around it? If it chose rather to put its roots in the rocky soil than the soil the gardener provided?

Now notice in the parable that the gardener says just give him another year. The gardener isn't foolish. This means that there is a running clock for us. The Lord is patiently working giving us our chance but He isn't foolish and just going to keep at it forever.

This means that the time is now.

The truth is you deserve to perish because of your sin but the only reason you haven't is because God is patient and investing in you so that you can repent.

All sin. All die. At any time. Repent.

That's our offer.

Repentance being that turning away from making everything about you, but repentance isn't only turning from something its turn to something or someone. It's turning to God.

And what is God doing? God is patiently working to give you the opportunity to turn to him.

He's working in your life to save you from your sin disorder that is wrecking your whole system.

You being here today. Hearing this message is God working the soil to have you turn back to him so that you can have life that is flourishing.

How crazy would it be to avoid and reject the patient work God is doing in our lives?