

# Where is God in the bushfires?

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Luke 13

<sup>1</sup>Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

<sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

<sup>8</sup>" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Amos 4

<sup>6</sup>"I gave you empty stomachs in every city and lack of bread in every town, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>7</sup>"I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away.

I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another.

One field had rain; another had none and dried up.

<sup>8</sup> People staggered from town to town for water but did not get enough to drink,

yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>"Many times I struck your gardens and vineyards, I struck them with blight and mildew.

Locusts devoured your fig and olive trees, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>10</sup>"I sent plagues among you as I did to Egypt.

I killed your young men with the sword, along with your captured horses.

I filled your nostrils with the stench of your camps, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> "I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.

You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me," declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

<sup>13</sup> He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is his name.

Copies of this talk can be downloaded from [www.dominicsteele.com](http://www.dominicsteele.com) later this afternoon

1 How do we react?

2 How does Jesus react?

3 Jesus says the bushfires tell us we need to turn back to God Luke 13:1-5, Amos 4

4 There's a merciful delay and warning Luke 13:6-9

5 Will you listen to the warning?

Questions, Comments and Prayers